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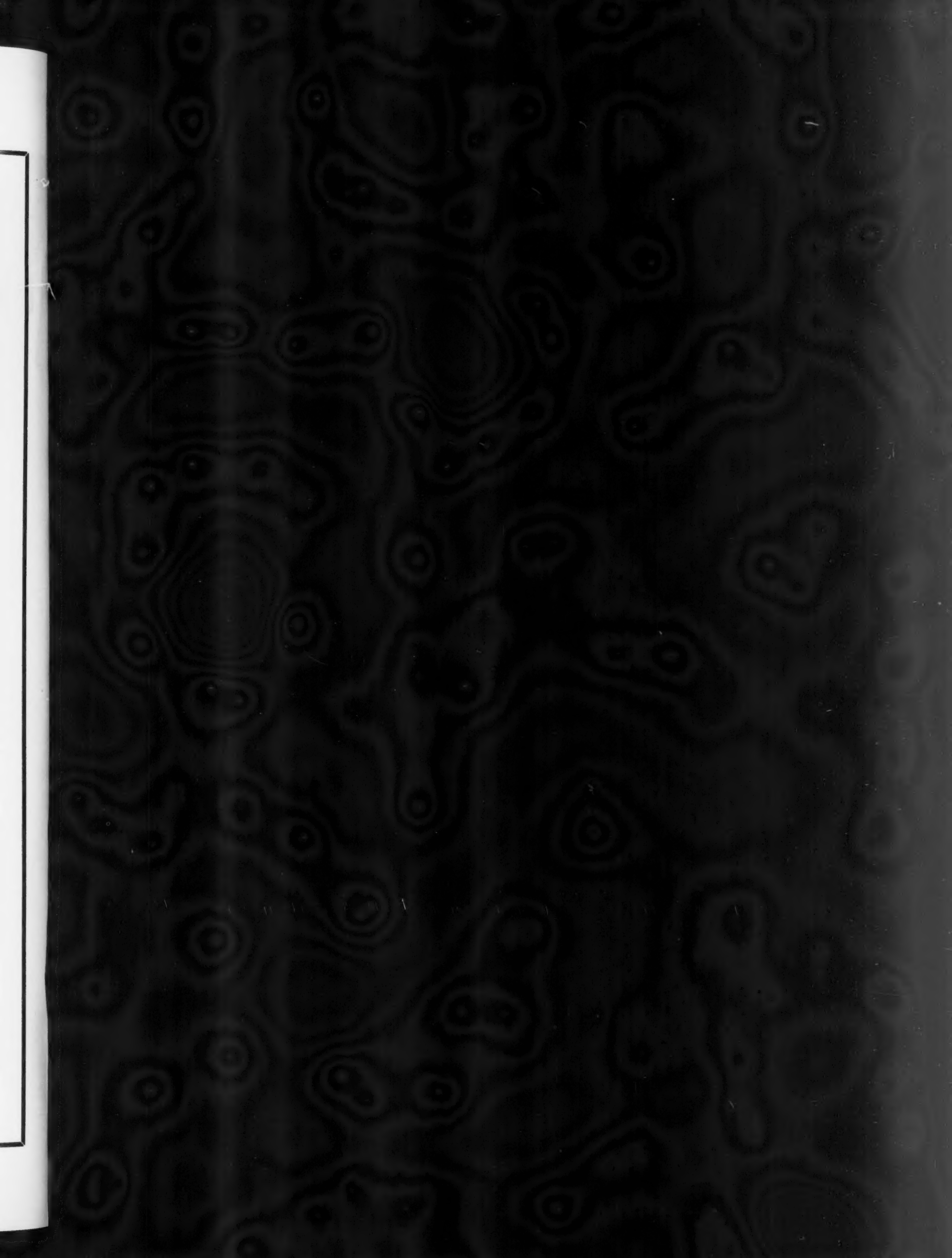
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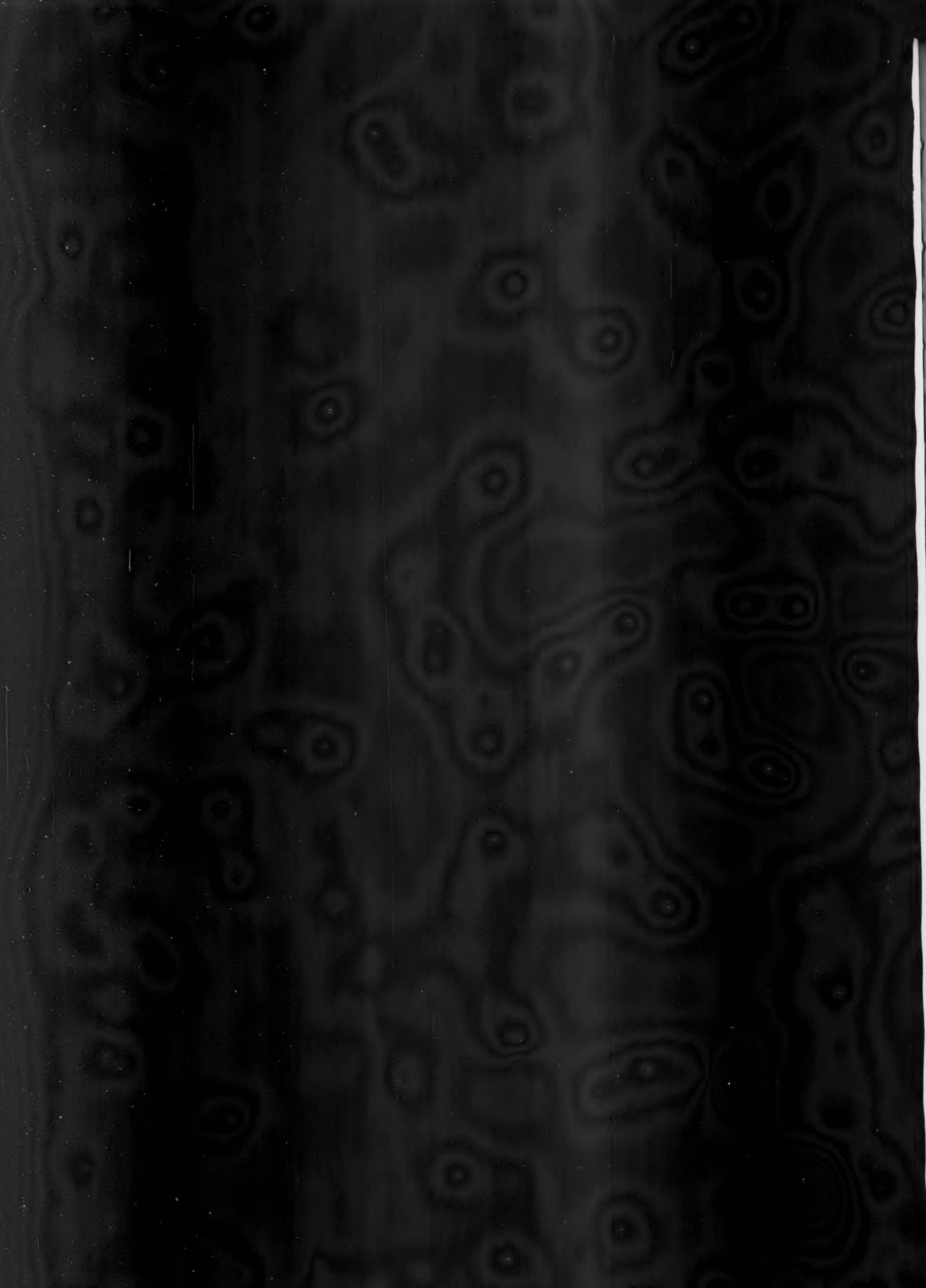
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Volume XXI

DECEMBER 1939

Number 7

CAVALRY? YES!

BY MAJOR CARLISLE B. COX

United States Cavalry

SCENE: MOST ANY PLACE—MEN'S room in a Pullman, hotel lobby, home of a rancher who is going to let me try for trout in his creek.

CIVILIAN: "Cavalryman, eh? Not much use in modern war. I mean the horse is about done for, isn't he, what with airplanes and tanks and armored cars. . . ."

The above is the gist of what I hear and have heard for a number of years.

Why? Why does the average American think that the horse in war is obsolete?

I think I know the answers. Here they are:

A. The average citizen of this country is preoccupied with his personal affairs (and some politics) and very naturally is not a student of national defense problems.

B. His ideas (if any) on the subject of the United States at war are influenced by what he has seen or heard or read of the World War.

C. Publicity given mechanical devices. He sees news reels, moving pictures, magazine and newspaper articles portraying new engines of destruction and with captions indicating that they are the only things necessary to win a war.

Erroneous Conclusion

The "horse in war" sceptic has thus been led to an erroneous conclusion through no fault of his own.

Let us analyze a bit the above A B C's in their order:

A. Of course the average citizen in this country is not familiar with the essential details of national defense. Certainly if he were a thorough student of the science and art of war he wouldn't have much time left to earn his bread and get caught up on his fishing, golf, and other extra-curricular activities. And it really doesn't make much difference, except that if too many people are convinced that we don't need cavalry their convictions might be reflected in appropriations for the purchase of horses and otherwise for the maintenance of cavalry in our army.

B. World War influence. The average

American's impressions of the World War are gained from that part of the war in which the United States played a hand. We entered the war in 1917. We did not get in deep until 1918. When we got into it a state of stabilization had been reached: trench warfare from Switzerland to the sea—a congested condition, no room for maneuver. We saw and heard little of the cavalry and are perhaps under the impression that cavalry played no important role, little realizing that actually nearly 1,000,000 cavalrymen were engaged in the World War.

Cavalry in World War

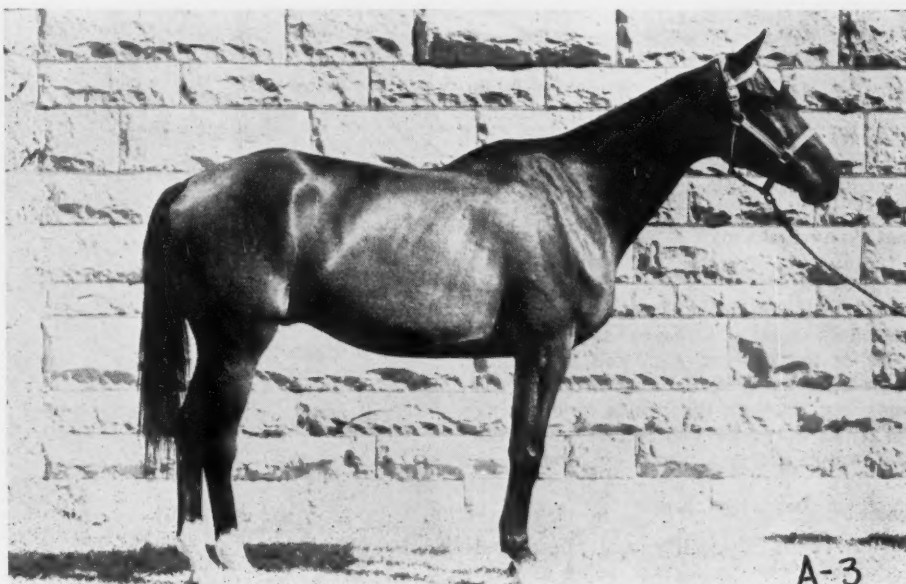
We fought that war in 1917-18. But that war started in 1914. It was not trench warfare at first. Cavalry *was* employed and there were many cavalry actions before the opposing armies stabilized. The war opened with huge forces of cavalry on both sides, each trying to conceal the movements of its own army and each trying to penetrate the other's screen and find out what the enemy forces were doing. In the British

retreat to the Marne a large force was saved from destruction by having cavalry protect its flank. In the "race to the sea," September to November, 1914, the cavalry was largely responsible for balking the German attempt to seize the vital ports on the English Channel. The Germans used cavalry effectively to connect their first and second armies at a critical stage of the war. Then, again, lack of cavalry prevented the Germans from exploiting successes that might have been disastrous to the allies. All of the war was not fought in France. There was a good, husky war in Palestine, an important part of the World War, with important results, and British mounted troops certainly played an important part in that.

These are just a few examples. A semiofficial text on cavalry combat contains account of twenty-eight separate cavalry engagements, each illustrating different employments of cavalry, yet does not record all the scraps in which the horse did his bit. Definitely, cavalry played a hand in the World War. Definitely, had one side been without cavalry, that side would have been licked early in the game.

Mechanical Devices Limited

C. Mechanical devices. Gosh, they look good in pictures and make swell subjects



This is an army horse and the type the cavalry likes. Reno Judas. Government Number D906.



Hundreds of cavalymen are trained to negotiate nearly vertical banks, narrow "slides," stream crossings, and other types of terrain not suited to mechanical devices.

for feature stories! And demonstrate! Boy oh boy, how they can demonstrate! But what do they demonstrate? Merely that under certain conditions they can perform a definite task with definite limitation; not that they can win a war, or even a battle. Nor do the people who command these devices think that they are all-powerful. They of all people know what they can do, and they would be the last to recommend that your national defense rest upon the gas, oil, wings, cogwheels, and rubber of mechanization.

Not a Substitute

Now don't get me wrong. These mechanical gadgets are helpful and they can do some wonderful things. They increase the mobility of our army, extend the range of our reconnaissance, and under favorable conditions have many uses. No modern army can afford to be without them. But they are not a substitute for infantry, artillery, or cavalry.

Airplanes can machine-gun and bomb a position but they can't capture it. They can fly over a town or woods (weather permitting) and if they see enemy troops they can report that they saw enemy troops. But if they do not see any enemy that is no guarantee that the enemy isn't there well concealed. But if a horse patrol goes through a town or woods it can tell for sure whether or not enemy is present.

Suppose you want a nice, quiet little reconnaissance, a "look-see" at the enemy without being seen. Can you imagine a lumbering tank or a noisy armored car sneaking through the woods or creeping up on an outpost? Jeb Stuart or Buffalo Bill would prefer a horse. So would I.

Perform Important Roles

Due to its flexibility and speed and endurance, two important roles of cavalry are reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance (screening).

Reconnaissance is the act of seeking

information: finding out what the enemy is doing, how strong he is, etc. Generally it is executed by sending out bodies of troops, sometimes covering a wide area. These bodies send out smaller bodies which in turn send out small groups or patrols to penetrate the enemy screen. They usually act with secrecy and caution but sometimes have to fight for information. Reserves are held out to rescue patrols if they get into hot water. Counterreconnaissance, as the name implies, acts to prevent the enemy from making a successful reconnaissance of your forces or of a given area. It is usually executed by spreading a screen of troops, sometimes over a wide front,

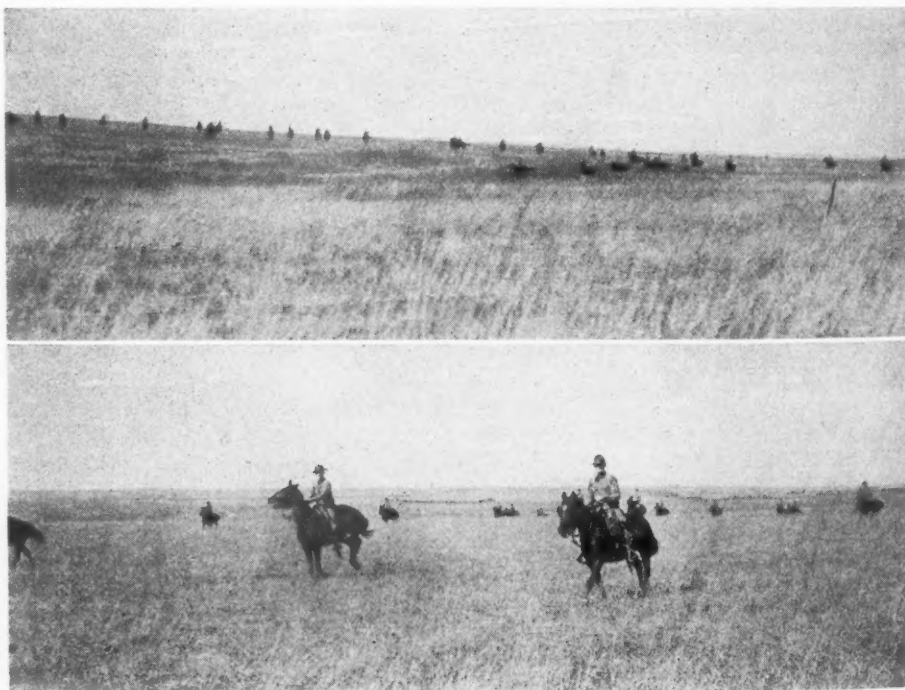
covering the object you don't want the enemy to see. It is a spider web to enmesh unwary enemy patrols.

Roads may be blocked or enemy may be in areas between roads. Obviously to do a good job of reconnaissance or counterreconnaissance troops must leave the roads. What are the mechanized devices going to do when the ground is too rough or too boggy or too wooded? Horses can do it but *no vehicle yet invented can go where a horse can go.*

Transporting troops by trucks is a fine thing, but don't think they can be chauffeured up and dumped out at their fighting positions. The doughboy still has to walk the last, long mile and then some. Truck columns are very vulnerable to attack. They must stay on roads. They must be protected, front, flanks, and rear. Frequently they must move at night, and to preserve secrecy or avoid being an easy target they must travel without lights at greatly reduced speed. In any operation involving wholly mechanized forces the vital ingredient is gasoline. When they run out of that they stop. They don't muddle through for two or three days on an empty stomach and *they don't eat grass*—and the theater of operations is not dotted with filling stations. Mechanization presents vulnerable targets, is subject to breakdowns, cannot go where the horse can go, cannot live off the country, is difficult to supply with spare parts and gas.

Mobile and Flexible

Cavalry is mobile. It can march great distances. It is flexible. It can deploy rapidly to cover a wide front, assemble



All cavalry attacks are not mounted, but when they are or when cavalries cross an area under fire, they deploy in thin lines and thus present a difficult target. Wave after wave of these thin lines move rapidly toward their objective.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

rapidly at a given point, move over rough ground and through woods, and ford streams. It packs quite a wallop in fire power: rifles, pistols, machine guns. It can move its fire power from point to point with speed. These characteristics make cavalry particularly adept at: harassing action (hit and run), delaying action (make enemy deploy, slow him up, then jump on horses and get away to next delaying position), flanking action, protecting flanks, mobile reserve. And in the open warfare, which our American doctrine dictates, cavalry in large masses is highly desirable—not charging boot to boot into the jaws of death, but taking advantage of its ability to move at speed across country without regard to roads, to put lots of men and lots of fire power at the right place at the right time.

Room for Improvement

Cavalry must have horses and in war time many more horses. This country has them, though there seems to be room for improvement in the quality of horse-flesh. It must be just as easy to raise a good horse as it is to raise a scrub, and a whole lot easier to sell the good one. As I travel about I see lots of horses. The cattleman, the sheepman, the farmer—people who don't call themselves in the horse business—have four, six, a dozen, or twenty riding horses, and they use them. I get this impression: Many of these horses are small, of indifferent conformation, carelessly bred, and a relatively small percentage would fulfill the requirements for a cavalry horse. Doubtless they suffice to a fair degree for the work at hand but they are surely not a source of pride. Surely they don't offer so much pleasure to their riders and surely they don't do their daily tasks as efficiently as would better horses. There are an amazing number of horses under fifteen hands. These little fellows would find it difficult to campaign at regulation gaits with regulation loads, make long marches day after day. If bigger and better mares were bred to good stallions (and there is probably a good stallion in your neighborhood) and if a bit more care were given the foals and if the scrubs weren't bred at all we would have better horses and life would be more worth while.

Has Place in War

Yes, sir, cavalry has a place in war, and it will continue to be a vital part of our army until the antics of comic sheet Buck Rogers and his space ships become a reality (and I sometimes think Buck needs a horse).

P. S.—It is reported that in the recent war in Spain cavalry very materially assisted the Nationalist army in the overthrow of its opponents. In the more recent German-Polish affair (though not a good historical example due to the great preponderance of strength which existed on one side) it is noteworthy that both sides employed cavalry.

LAND COST AND INVESTMENT STANDARDS

BY MONT H. SAUNDERSON*

TWO-THIRDS TO THREE-FOURTHS of the year-round operation for western range cattle is on deeded land, and one-fourth to one-third is on public lands. A comparison of the cattle numbers and months of grazing in the forests and grazing districts with the census of beef cattle numbers for Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and western Wyoming shows that as an average for the intermountain region 30 per cent of the feed is from the public lands and 70 per cent from the deeded lands.

This general picture shows that nearly all cattle ranches have a heavy investment in hay and pasture lands and range lands, and indicates that many of the ranches are operating entirely on deeded land.

In study of the land use and land costs of cattle ranches in the intermountain

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region, the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station obtained during 1938 a group of records from cattle ranches located in northeastern Utah, southeastern Idaho, and southwestern Wyoming. The purpose of this article is to compare, for the ranches of this group that operate entirely on deeded land, the land investments and land costs with the standards that have been developed by western ranch management studies.

In securing the records, ranches were selected that had a range survey, and these six ranches which are selected for an analysis of deeded land investments and costs have, with one exception, a good balance between hay and pasture land and range. There is also a reasonably close agreement between the range land grazing capacity, as shown by the range survey, and the operator's use experience with the range. This is considered important in this analysis of land

TABLE 1.—LAND INVESTMENT AND ANNUAL LAND COST PER HEAD OF CATTLE

	Ranch No. 1	Ranch No. 2	Ranch No. 3	Ranch No. 4	Ranch No. 5	Ranch No. 6
Investment per head in hay and pasture land.....	\$ 71.00	\$35.00	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$27.00	\$28.00
Investment per head in range land	37.00	36.00	42.00	46.00	58.00	43.00
Investment per head in all land	108.00	71.00	92.00	76.00	75.00	71.00
Annual land tax cost per head..	1.55	1.45	1.35	1.70	1.85	1.45
Total annual land charge per head	6.95	5.60	5.95	5.50	5.60	5.00

TABLE 2.—LAND COSTS PER COW MONTH

	Ranch No. 1	Ranch No. 2	Ranch No. 3	Ranch No. 4	Ranch No. 5	Ranch No. 6
On hay and pasture land.....	\$.63	\$.26	\$.37	\$.37	\$.33	\$.35
On owned range land.....	.53	.63	.73	.61	.65	.47
On leased range land.....36

TABLE 3.—VALUES AND COSTS PER ACRE FOR THE OWNED RANGE AND HAY LAND

	Ranch No. 1	Ranch No. 2	Ranch No. 3	Ranch No. 4	Ranch No. 5	Ranch No. 6
Acres of range used per cow month	3	4½	3	2½	3½	2¼
Owners value per acre.....	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$3.00
Normal value per acre.....	1.50	1.00	1.50	1.75	1.35	2.00
Real estate property tax per acre on range land.....	5½c	4½c	7c	7c	7c	6¼c
Normal tax per acre on range land	3¾c	2½c	3¾c	4½c	3¾c	4¾c
Yield per acre of hay land.....	½T	1¼T	1¼T	1T	2¼T	2½T
Owners value per acre for hay and pasture land.....	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$50.00
Normal value per acre for hay and pasture land.....	10.00	25.00	25.00	20.00	45.00	40.00
Tax per acre on the hay land....	.20	.45	.50	.50	1.00	1.15
Normal tax per acre on the hay land.....	.22	.65	.65	.45	.90	.80

investments and costs, because the figures must be based upon a unit of land grazing capacity such as the animal-month or the animal-year.

As a background for studying the individual ranch figures on land costs in tables 1, 2, and 3, let us have a quick look at the land use picture of each of the six ranches.

The Lands Used by the Ranches

Ranch No. 1.—This ranch operates 5,000 head of cattle, owns 16,000 acres of native hay and meadow pasture and 75,000 acres of range. The cattle are fed four months in the winter, and are on the meadows and pasture an average of three months in the summer and fall. The period of range use is May 1 to the end of September. Considerable grain is produced on the crop land in some years and is used for work stock and for finishing steers. This ranch sells yearlings and two-year-olds.

Ranch No. 2.—This ranch operates 1,400 head of cattle, owns 1,500 acres of native hay land and 800 acres of irrigated pasture and owns and leases 38,000 acres of range land. The cattle are fed four and a half months in the winter and are on the meadows and pasture for an average of one and a half months in the summer and fall. The six-months range period is from May 1 to the end of October. This ranch sells long two-year-old steers and cows. The animals to be marketed are gathered and put in the meadows in early September. The two-year-old steers weigh around 900 pounds at marketing.

Ranch No. 3.—This ranch operates 1,000 head of cattle, owns 1,100 acres of irrigated meadow and pasture land and 12,000 acres of range land. The range is used for an average of only four months. The cattle are fed for four months in the winter and are maintained on the cut meadows and lowland pastures for an average of four months. This ranch sells yearlings and two-year-olds. The long two-year-olds weigh about 1,000 pounds at marketing; the yearlings will average 650 pounds.

Ranch No. 4.—This ranch operates 800 head of cattle, owns 900 acres of native hay meadow, 100 acres of alfalfa meadow, 12,000 acres of range land, and leases 1,000 acres of meadow pasture. The range period is five months from May 1 to the end of September; the winter feed period is five months from December 1 to the end of April. All the cattle are on the cut meadow aftermath and uncut meadow pasture during October and November and some are run on the pastures through the summer. The long two-year-old steers marketed from this range weigh 1,000 to 1,050 pounds.

Ranch No. 5.—This ranch operates 600 head of cattle, owns 270 acres of alfalfa and native hay meadow and 12,000 acres of range. The winter feed period is five months, the range period is six months, and the cut meadows are used for one month in the fall. The two-year-old steers go to market weighing 950 pounds.

Ranch No. 6.—This ranch operates 180 head of cattle, owns 100 acres of alfalfa hay land and 2,560 acres of range land. The cattle are on the range six months from May 1 to the end of October. They graze the hay meadows two or three weeks in the fall and are fed five and a half months through the winter months. The two-year-old steers weigh 950 to 1,000 pounds.

Let us note that the hay meadows and pastures of these ranches are supporting the cattle one-half to two-thirds of the year, and the summer and fall pasturing on the cut and uncut meadows provides a substantial part of the gains and finish put on the cattle that go to market.

Land Investment and Costs per Head

Western cattle ranch management studies show that the maximum "safe" investment in deeded land is around \$60 per head for the year-long operation, and that the annual land cost for leases and grazing fees, land taxes, and the interest return on the land investment should not exceed \$4 a head for the year-long operation. These economic studies of western cow ranches also show that as a long-run tendency the land taxes will absorb about one-third of the annual land charge, which would mean an annual land tax cost per head of approximately \$1.35 if the annual land charge is \$4.*

The land investment figures given in Table 1 are based upon the owner's land purchase costs, or the prices at which he would now be willing to buy or sell the land, whichever is the lower figure. The land tax cost per head is the tax now paid on the deeded land. The total annual land charge per head is the land tax plus any leases paid and plus a 5 per cent interest charge on the investment per head in all land.

We see from these figures that four of the six ranches exceed a \$60 per head investment figure by \$10 or \$15 and that the other two ranches have a very high land investment. Ranch No. 1 has an excessive investment in hay and pasture land because it has more irrigated land than needed in the use of the range, and as a consequence has undertaken grain production and fattening. Note that the hay and pasture land, which supports the live stock half or more of the year, accounts for less than half the total land investment in four out of the six cases. Ranches 1, 4, and 5 have too high a land tax. All the ranches have considerably in excess of a \$4 per head annual land charge.

Land Charge per Animal Month

The figures in Table 2 give a comparison of the land costs per head per month for the hay and pasture land and the

range land. This charge is the sum of the taxes and the 5 per cent interest on investment, divided by the animal months of use. Note that the land charge per animal month of maintenance on the hay and pasture is very much lower than on the range, with the exception of ranch No. 1.

An annual land charge of \$4 a head is equal to an average cost of 33 cents per animal month. The animal month charge on the hay and pasture land approximates this figure, with the exception of ranch No. 1. The animal month charge on the range land is in every case considerably in excess of this figure.

Land Values and Land Costs

In Table 3 is given a comparison of values and taxes on the range lands and on the hay and pasture lands, with a "normal" value and tax figure. This normal value figure is the price at which the land would have to sell in order to pay the owner a 5 per cent return on the land investment with a land charge of 33 cents an animal month and with the land tax absorbing one-third of the land revenue from the 33 cents charge, or 11 cents an animal month. The normal tax figure is calculated on this basis of 11 cents an animal month of carrying capacity of the hay land, the pasture land, and the range land. The operator's experience in hay feeding rates for wintering and the per acre average yield of the hay land, plus the pasture and aftermath use, were the basis for calculating the carrying capacity of the hay meadows.

The information in Table 3 shows that the range land is consistently overvalued and overtaxed and that the meadow and pasture land is generally reasonably valued and taxed. In an adjustment of values and taxes on these ranches, the range land should receive first attention and effort.

Summary

The importance of the use of deeded land in the production of range cattle in the intermountain region makes it essential that this land be properly valued and properly taxed in order to have a reasonable operating cost.

The studies which have been made of western cattle ranch operations and costs make it possible to set up some good general standards of land investment, land values, and land taxes. These general standards can be used as the basis for analysis of the individual ranch situation. There will, of course, be differences in some individual ranch situations that will admit a considerable departure, both above and below these general standards.

The standards and the individual ranch data presented in this article are based upon year-long operation on deeded land. Where low-cost grazing on public land is used for a part of the year, this low cost for the use of the public land will change the situation of values and taxes on the deeded lands. A study of the records of cattle ranches using public lands

*See Montana Agricultural Experiment Station Circular No. 6, "A Method for the Valuation of Live Stock Ranch Properties and Grazing Lands," and USDA Circular, "Effect of Changing Prices upon Income to Land from Cattle and Sheep Ranching . . ." Bureau of Agricultural Economics, February, 1939.

indicates, however, that the deeded lands are capitalized and taxed so that total annual land charge is still excessive.

This comparison of land charges of these six individual ranches that operate entirely on deeded lands with the information on standards for such operation indicates that it is the range lands, rather than the hay and pasture lands, that need adjustment in the land charge.

SURVEY SHOWS COUNTRY'S BIG GAME TOTAL 6,000,000

NEARLY 6,000,000 BIG-GAME ANIMALS are in the United States, according to the second nation-wide big-game inventory conducted by Biological Survey.

Present figures, taken in December, 1938, indicate an increase of 1,000,000 big-game animals since 1937, when the first annual inventory was made, but the Biological Survey stressed the fact that apparent increases or decreases in numbers of various species may actually indicate an improvement in counting and estimating technique rather than a change in animal populations.

Included in the survey were the deer, elk, moose, antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, peccary, caribou, bear, buffalo, and the exotic European wild change in animal populations.

Deer account for more than 5,333,000 of the 6,000,000 big-game animals reported this year. Michigan, Pennsylvania, and California, in that order, lead all states in the number of big-game animals within their boundaries and also have the greatest number of deer. Michigan has 1,000,000 whitetails; Pennsylvania, 773,000 whitetails; and California, 528,000 mule deer and black-tailed deer.

Counts for other big-game species:

Wyoming leads in four groups, having 91,700 of the 228,800 elk in the country, 7,400 of the 16,300 moose, 5,000 of the 11,300 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and 890 of the 4,500 buffaloes.

More than 5,000 desert bighorn sheep were counted. California heads the list with 1,700, Nevada is second with 1,400, and Arizona third with 1,200. Mountain goats totaled 14,400, Washington being credited with 5,700, Montana, 4,900, and Idaho, 3,800. Texas has 32,500 of the 40,200 peccaries, or javelinas, reported, the remainder being found in Arizona, 7,200, and New Mexico, 450.

The 845 exotic European wild boars found in this country are confined to Tennessee, 425; California, 200; New Hampshire and North Carolina, 100 each; and Mississippi, 20.

Black bears total 93,500, more than 15,000 being in Washington and 14,600 in California. Grizzly bears number 1,100, with 550 in Montana and 400 in Wyoming.

Only 16 woodland caribou were reported. Minnesota had 12 and Washington 4.

Delaware is the only state in which no big-game animals are found.

MOLLIN ATTACKS ARGENTINE TRADE PACT

"IT WAS INTERESTING TO HEAR senators and congressmen express opposition to the Argentine agreement. Their lack of support of the reciprocal trade policy as it is proposed bears out our contention that it never was the intent of the lawmakers in passing the act that it should be exercised largely at the expense of agriculture."

This quotation is from the testimony of F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, before the Committee for Reciprocity Information at Washington, D. C., October 18 in connection with the negotiation of a reciprocal trade agreement with Argentina. Cattlemen are involved in these negotiations to the extent of having practically every part of their plant output—from the beef and hide to the blood and bones of their animals—on the list of concessions to Argentina. It will therefore interest them to see what their representative said to the committee. Mr. Mollin's testimony, in part, follows:

MR. MOLLIN: Monday there was a discussion, and again this morning, as to the percentage of the burden borne by agriculture in this trade agreement program. Whatever the figures may be up to this juncture, there is no doubt as to the burden on agriculture, and particularly live stock, in the proposed agreement. It is not 10 or 15 per cent but almost 100 per cent.

Now I should like to say a little about canned beef, and first I should like to correct the statement made by Mr. Culbertson [representing Rich Products Corporation] when he was on the stand yesterday. He stated that there had been three increases in the duty on canned beef since 1921. I have here an official sheet from the Tariff Commission which shows that the tariff on canned beef was 25 per cent in 1921. It was decreased to 20 per cent in 1922 and increased to 6 cents per pound—the present rate of duty—in 1930. The

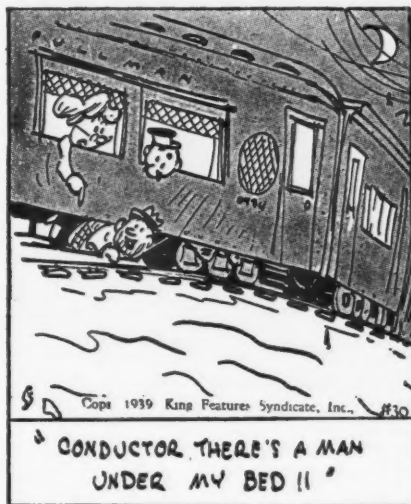
present duty of 6 cents a pound is the equivalent of only 2.4 cents a pound on the dressed weight basis. That is not anywhere near high enough. On that basis, this country would be flooded with dressed beef were it not for the sanitary embargo.

No sound reason for a low duty on canned beef as compared with dressed beef exists. The only people that will benefit, if you reduce this duty, are the Chicago packers who have their plants in the Argentine and the other packers down there and possibly, to a very minor extent, the consumers in this country.

Incidentally, in connection with that, it is interesting to note that the packers in this country, on many of whose products the duty is proposed to be lowered, are absent from this hearing. According to the best information I can get, the only interest they have taken in the matter is to file a brief on dog food.

I had not intended to say anything about the quality of canned beef, but that matter has been referred to by Mr. Culbertson in such a way as to leave the impression with the committee and the public that the quality of the Argentine beef is superior to the quality of American beef. That is not true. The only way you can make that statement is to compare the quality of the beef which Argentina cans today with the quality which we used to can in this country when we were able to maintain a canning industry against the competition of foreign countries. We cannot maintain a canning industry today with a tariff that is only equivalent to 2.4 cents per pound on the dressed animal. So the canning industry has practically gone out of business in this country. That is true; but, in the recent instance of the purchase of canned beef by the United States government, the quality furnished by Argentina was exactly the same quality as would have been furnished by the Chicago packers, or whatever American packer might have secured the contract, because the specifications were definite as to the quality of beef that was to be put in the cans. Our beef is superior to Argentine beef. We simply do not can the high priced cuts that they have a surplus of down there, because they cannot get rid of them in the carcass, probably because of our sanitary embargo.

It was intimated by the representative of the International Shoe Company yesterday that there was great danger of maintaining too high a tariff on hides. To those of us who have fought this hide tariff battle over a long period of years, that would be humorous if it were not rather tragic. We have a 10 per cent duty—a purely nominal duty. It cannot be called anything else. I secured from one of the experts of the Tariff Commission this morning a statement that, on the basis of a 10 per cent duty, it really boils down to about 6.5 per cent by the time you get the hide trimmed and scoured down. Under this treaty you can reduce the rate by one-half, which will make it 3.3 per cent,



we will say. It takes, according to the bulletin on hides and skins, put out by the Tariff Commission, 5 pounds of green hide to make a pair of shoes. So if you take the 10 per cent, as the representative of the International Shoe Company asked you to do yesterday, and reduce it by the full amount that is possible under this program, you might possibly reduce the cost to them of the price of a pair of shoes something like 2 cents a pair, and you know and I know that the consumer will never find out about it.

Mr. Jackson, the representative of the International Shoe Company—and I understand he represented the big United States Leather Corporation and several other leather and shoe corporations of large size—made one statement with which I will have to agree. That is the only one, however. It is true we have never been able to get our cowboys to go out in the morning before breakfast to curry the cows, as he intimated they should, in order to take proper care of the hides. We do not neglect these hides because of any desire to neglect them. There is a way of operating in the West that has been built up over fifty or seventy-five years. That is the only way the ranges can be run. We have to brand the cattle. We do not brand the cattle just for fun. We do not put any more brands on than we have to. I think there has been considerable progress in the industry in that respect in the last fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five years, but we have to brand them until the millennium comes and nobody steals cattle. We have just as much stealing today as we had years ago. In fact, I think it is a worse problem, with the rubber tired trucks and the fast highways. It is one of the important problems that is taken up in every live-stock meeting that I attend.

He made the statement that it made no difference to the farmer as to what the hide was worth, so far as the quality of it was concerned. That statement is untrue. Time and again I have noted on the South Omaha market that the unbranded Iowa steers sold for 5 or 10 cents per hundred more than other cattle of similar quality, similar finish, just simply because Iowa cattle had no brands and the western cattle—fine quality—had the regulation number of brands on them.

There isn't any doubt in the world that the packer pays attention to the branding of the animal when he buys the product in the market.

He referred also to the low price of country hides. That is quite true. They do not get very much for them in the country, for various reasons. I have never heard a representative of the hide trust brag about it particularly before, but they do not pay any more for those country hides than they have to. The farmer cannot, of course, take them off with the skill of the packing-house worker. He does the best he can with them, but they are in small quantities and picked up and peddled here and there. The expense of handling, freight, and everything else is greater until they get concentrated into larger quantities. So the price of country hides is always several cents a pound below packer hides, but they are worth something to the producer. When you have a price

system that makes the rancher take anything he can get and when they get down to the point where they are practically worthless, then it is true they are wasted to some extent. That is the reason why we need a hide tariff in this country more than ever before—to make those hides worth something, so they will be preserved on the farm and range instead of importing any increased quantity from abroad.

Now an argument was developed yesterday in an attempt to prove that we had no interest in the hide price, particularly because hides went up and stayed up and cattle went up and came back down. The hide is only one factor in fixing the cattle price. It is quite true and quite possible that hides might be going up in value and cattle be going down at the same time. That would not prove we were not getting the value of the hide in the sale of the cattle but merely that the increased value of the hide was not strong enough, was not a big enough factor, to keep up the price of the beef when the beef market was sloppy. I have seen it happen time and again. I have a chart here that I will show you later which I think will prove that we do get credit not only for the hide but for the various by-products.

I went through the fight on the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act when we got hides taken off the free list and this 10 per cent duty put on. It was not considered at that time that we got anything like a fair schedule on hides—10 per cent on hides, 15 per cent on leather, and 20 per cent on shoes. It was the best we could get. As a matter of fact, it was not our schedule at all. The shoe and leather people had more to do with it than we had. They just gave us a little recognition and we got hides off the free list. In the Senate we lost by one vote on the motion to increase the tariff on hides to a 4-cent flat duty.

The present schedule in the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act is out of proportion as between hides and shoes. If you reduce the tariff on hides now, it will come out of the producer. It will not particularly help the shoe consumer but it will benefit the importers of these South American hides. It just simply makes our problem in the next tariff fight—and there will be one some day—that much harder to overcome and to get a fair balance between hides, leather, and shoes.

It seems to me that the tariff is so nominal that if you reduce it it practically proves this is not a scientific study of what the tariff should be. They would lower the tariff on hides because they want it lowered. There is not any basis to lower the 10 per cent duty on hides.

Before the war recently, hides went up 5 cents a pound. The hides were worth 10 cents a pound. The duty was less than a cent a pound on a trimmed-down hide, and it should not be reduced.

[Fats and oils were taken up at this point. Exports of oleo oil were shown to run less than one pound per animal, based on federal slaughter. Tallow exports in 1938 were given at 750,000 pounds—"not very important in light of canned beef imports on dressed basis of 238,026,000 pounds in six months,"

said the witness. It is possible, the witness said, that if the excise tax on tallow is reduced it might again bring in part of previous years' imports that have run as much as 234,000,000 pounds in a single year.

[The witness introduced a table to show the relationship of beef to by-products. Among other things, the table showed that in January, 1924, 100 pounds of live steer cost the packer \$10.65 which he sold for \$9.67—a difference of 98 cents.]

MR. MOLLIN: Now if you will examine that table you will see in those 120 months there were only five times that there were plus signs, that they had to sell the 58 pounds of dressed beef for more than they paid for the 100 pounds of live steer, and, during all the rest of the time when the minus signs prevailed, they picked up the cost of slaughtering, processing, distribution, and the packer's profit out of the by-products.

I do not know how better we can show that the producer has a real interest in the value of the hide, tallow, oleo oil, and all the other by-products, because after all is said and done the packers know what those things are worth, and in competition they pay us as little as they can and sell the beef as high as they can. But their profits in recent years have not shown that they are in the position to gouge the public or the producer either.

This paper tells the story. If you lower the value of the by-products you are going to put the load on beef itself to the point that beef will reach the saturation point and the consumers rebel. Then they will come back and take it out of the producer. They cannot do anything else.

[Discussing the cattle price structure, the witness said, that only the drought and the government buying program of 1934 had enabled the industry in recent years to sustain reasonable prices and to absorb increasing imports. Six months' imports this year were equal to 9.4 per cent of federally inspected slaughter, on a live animal basis. We are getting near the danger point, he said. Increase in production this year is indicated as 1,000,000 head. "Imports of 9.4 per cent would have borne the industry down severely if normal slaughter had prevailed." "Some of these days," he said, "we'll get back to normal slaughter, and then we are going to need the American market for our product to a greater extent than we have it now. If concessions on cattle products are made, the industry will be beyond help for the life of the agreement, probably three years."

[In order to bring pressure for a trade agreement on exporters, Argentina has hampered exports to its country recently, the witness said. In August, two days before announcement of intention to negotiate with Argentina, that country put on a host of restrictions on American export trade.]

MR. MOLLIN: If you cut our duties now, with the war used as an excuse for doing it, then at the cessation of the

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

war we may find ourselves the dumping ground of the world. We have got the best market in the world, and we will find ourselves the dumping ground of the world and there will be no way to stop it fast enough to do the job that will have to be done.

You remember the situation at the end of the World War when they had to pass the emergency Tariff Act in 1921 and then the regular Tariff Act of 1922. . . .

When all is said and done, when the war is over, Argentina is going to buy its products from the country which offers it the best outlet for its agricultural products, because that is what their surpluses are, agricultural products. If we make trades now based on getting their industrial trade when they cannot go any place else to buy these products, they will go right back to the country from which they can buy their goods the cheapest and which will buy the most agricultural products and we will be left holding the bag. We cannot cut the tariff on Argentine agricultural products if we are going to do justice to the American producers. . . . Now I want to call attention to the fact that so far as present tariff levels are concerned, the rate on heavy cattle is already below the level of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. Of course, the heavy cattle themselves are not included in this agreement, but every product of beef indirectly enters into it. . . .

Another thing that perhaps you do not fully understand is the worry it is to an industry to be constantly at the mercy of these threats of reduced tariffs. We never know when we can operate with any certainty as to what the tariff is going to be for six months ahead. You just cannot operate satisfactorily under those conditions. . . .

It was cleverly asserted yesterday that we were asking a tariff excluding canned beef. That is not true. Our tariff has not excluded canned beef. All you have to do is look at the table of imports to see that. We have had imports of more than 65,000,000 pounds of canned beef this year and heavy imports of hides. Any possible benefit to the exporters under this agreement will be far more than offset by the damage done to agriculture. . . .

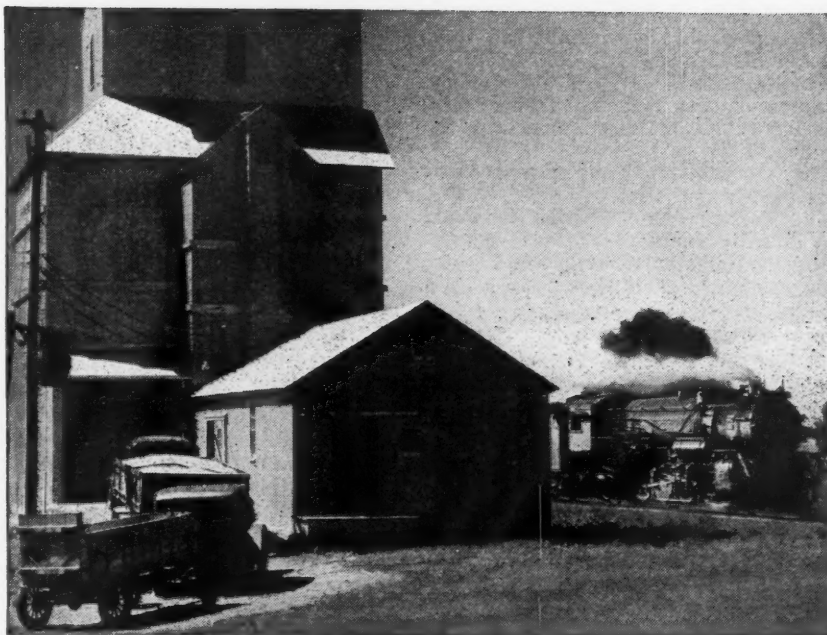
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mollin, I have only a few general questions to ask you. Some other members of the committee may have some more detailed questions. I want to get clearly your position on one or two matters. I understood you to say that the duty on hides was nominal.

MR. MOLLIN: Ten per cent.

THE CHAIRMAN: If it is nominal, then it is difficult to see how its reduction would affect anything.

MR. MOLLIN: Mr. Chairman, that argument has been used against us time and time again—if you take a little bit off here and a little bit off there, if you import a little bit more here and a little bit more there, it is not going to hurt us. But it is the sum total of all those things that does hurt us. We cannot say exactly how much a single thing is going to hurt us, but in the aggregate they do hurt us. There cannot be any question about it, and this table I presented to you shows how those things do work.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of the by-products which affect the price of beef and make it possible to get a profit there where



Ever try to figure who uses the crops you raise?

MAYBE that question looks easy. Most farmers haul their crops to town—sell them and get the money.

But the fellow you deal with in town is a long way from being the final buyer.

Grain has to go to mill—cotton has to be made into cloth—livestock has to go through the packing house—before they're ready for the final user.

And did you know that the biggest single milling center is hundreds of miles from the wheat belt—in Buffalo, N. Y.? Did you know that a dozen cities mill *two-thirds* of all the grain milled in the United States?

Did you know that the biggest single cotton spinning center is in New England, in Bristol County, Mass.?

You probably knew that Chicago was the biggest packing center—but did you know that New York comes second — and that more than half of all meat is packed in ten large city areas?

Did you know that most fresh fruits and vegetables from the Pacific Coast, the Southwest and the Southeast must travel 1,000 to 3,000 miles to find their consumers?

When you look at such figures as these you can see that the farm-to-market road is a long, long trail that doesn't end at the local railroad town.

But this is not the end of the story. After grain or cotton or meat or dozens of other farm products are processed—their final market is the whole United States.

And most of these products travel to market—their real market—by rail.

That's why you, as a farmer, have an interest in this *rail* part of your farm-to-market road—in seeing that it gets equal treatment with other forms of transportation and a fair chance to do for you the work which it alone can do.

A FAIR FIELD.
NO GOVERNMENT FAVOR.
IN TRANSPORTATION

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

otherwise there would be a deficit what percentage would hides usually be? Have you any idea?

MR. MOLLIN: No, I could not give you a figure on that offhand. It is always considered as the most important by-product in the cattle industry.

THE CHAIRMAN: You do not know what percentage it is?

MR. MOLLIN: No. I think it would be a large percentage.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is that?

MR. MOLLIN: I think it would be a large percentage.

THE CHAIRMAN: When you say the duty is nominal, what exactly do you mean by that?

MR. MOLLIN: I mean we just barely got it off the free list.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am trying to get what you mean. That results in practically no increase in the price of hides, but only a very small increase?

MR. MOLLIN: A very small increase.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you do not want that very small one decreased further?

MR. MOLLIN: No. It seems very inequitable to do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now the other question I have is with reference to canned beef. I ask the question not in any other spirit than to find out exactly your views and the views of the cattle industry on the subject. As I understand it, there is practically no production of corned beef in this country, except on government orders; that is, canned corned beef, where the foreign producer is out of the market. But where the foreign producer is in the market we cannot compete.

MR. MOLLIN: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: As I understand it, that is due to the fact that the class of beef or meat that goes into corned beef in Argentina goes into making sausage, hot dogs, and things of that sort in this country. Is that correct?

MR. MOLLIN: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Under those circumstances, and those facts being admitted, how would the domestic industry be injured by a reduction of the duty on it?

MR. MOLLIN: It is certainly self-evident that every pound of canned beef displaces a pound of some kind of meat. Just because it is not directly competitive does not mean it is not in competition with meat in this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know. What I am getting at is this: Unless there is an increase in the consumption of corned beef, there certainly would be no additional injury. Let me put it this way: Unless there is an increase in the consumption of corned beef at the expense of other beef products, there would be no injury to the domestic industry.

MR. MOLLIN: Unless it is at the expense of some other meat product which is competitive with beef.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. MOLLIN: If you are going to assume that you can reduce the tariff and it would not increase imports, as far as we are concerned we would have the same amount of competition. All you would be accomplishing then would be to reduce the revenue to Uncle Sam and give Argentina something which they do not need.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are mistaken. It looks to me—if I am incorrect I wish you would correct me—if you reduce

the duty from 6 to 3 cents—I do not know whether it will be done or not—but, if the duty is reduced from 6 cents to 3 cents, it would be an injury to the domestic industry only if that reduction of 3 cents a pound would cause an increased consumption of corned beef at the expense of other beef products produced here.

MR. MOLLIN: And it would enable the Argentine people to compete at a lower price level in this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: Unless it would enable them to get an increased rate at the expense of other products.

MR. MOLLIN: It would not necessarily have to be increased, but as our price goes down in this country we need protection more. That is why the present tariff has worked all right. We do not say it should keep out the product when the price is high, but when the price goes down then is when we need the protection. If you lower the tariff 3 cents a pound, you make it that much easier for them to come in here on a lower level of prices. While it might be the same amount, we would need more protection then than we need now. In other words, we could withstand the same competition to a lesser extent than now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not follow you. What is the point you are trying to make?

MR. MOLLIN: The point I am trying to make is that if you put the price of cattle down 3 cents a pound in this country, we need protection more than we need it now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see how you are doing that. That is the very question I am raising.

MR. MOLLIN: Increased production in this country may easily depress the price, and that is the reason we will need protection more then. As I said a bit ago, if you put the price down in this country, due to competition or due to the combination of everything, we cannot absorb this 9.4 per cent that is coming in, according to this bureau table, as readily as we can absorb it now at the present level of prices.

THE CHAIRMAN: To what extent can you be said to absorb it when your whole beef production is used for products which are more in demand and more profitable than corned beef would be?

MR. MOLLIN: As I said, it is just displacing that much meat.

MR. DEIMEL: Could I get that straight? What kind of beef is canned corned beef imported from Argentina displacing? Is it displacing rib roast?

MR. MOLLIN: Not necessarily displacing rib roast. It is displacing all kinds of meats, all kinds of sandwich meats. You can go into almost any drug store or eating place and get a pork sandwich or beef sandwich or you can get a corned beef sandwich.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does not the corned beef sandwich usually cost less?

MR. MOLLIN: I could not answer that.

MR. DEIMEL: I was thinking of the housewife, Mr. Mollin. I think she is rather important. When she buys a can of canned corned beef, what beef product does she fail to buy? What does it displace?

MR. MOLLIN: Some other kind of meat. It might be hamburger. It might be anything—any kind of meat. You just

cannot argue that this 100,000,000 pounds or 90,000,000 pounds of beef is that much more than people would consume in this country if those imports were stopped.

MR. DEIMEL: Let me see if I get that straight. If those imports were stopped, the American housewife and all others purchasing meat would consume that much more of some other beef product?

MR. MOLLIN: Not necessarily beef, but some other meat product.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me interrupt there. They were consuming a few years ago all our meat products, or most of them, at least, at considerably higher prices. Unless you could increase domestic beef production to take care of it at a low price to meet the consumption of that low-grade beef, the corned beef, I do not see where you would be benefiting the domestic industry.

MR. MOLLIN: We have got 35 per cent more cattle going into the feed-lots now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those cattle are not going to be produced to sell the product that will compete with corned beef.

MR. MOLLIN: Part of them will.

THE CHAIRMAN: They cannot be sold at that price.

MR. MOLLIN: Why not? There are all kinds of cattle going into the feed-lots. All the woods have been scoured. The cheap cattle might be brought in. Any condition might exist. They get every kind of cattle imaginable from the feed-lots today, from the choicest produced in my home state to the commonest kind of cattle produced in other sections.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it your contention that if the corned beef would not come in we would produce more cattle and that beef or any other kind of meat would be used in place of corned beef and the consumer could get it at as low a price as he gets the corned beef?

MR. MOLLIN: My contention is that, generally speaking, we consume as much as we produce, and we have the plant capacity to produce more than is being produced, or has been produced since the drought, and we are coming up to that plant capacity now, and we are going to need the domestic market.

MR. DEIMEL: Can I get that straight, Mr. Mollin? You spoke of 35 per cent more cattle coming in.

MR. MOLLIN: Into the feed-lots.

MR. DEIMEL: That is a resumption of production from the low stage due to the drought?

MR. MOLLIN: Partially.

MR. DEIMEL: It is not a growth of the industry so much. It is a bringing up of the production of beef from the low stage due to the drought.

MR. MOLLIN: It is both. Our production is definitely on the increase. We increased our total numbers last year 720,000. The department issued a statement in August this year saying it was indicated the increase this year would be at least 1,000,000 head.

MR. DEIMEL: I am still a little bit foggy on this, Mr. Mollin, about this canned beef business. Let us say the American housewife could not get a can of canned corned beef, which at present apparently she can only get from out of the country. You say she would buy more hamburger?

Mr. MOLLIN: She would buy something. She would not go hungry.

Mr. DEIMEL: Hamburger is the nearest you can get to it?

Mr. MOLLIN: There are some kinds of luncheon meats that have beef in them. They are not all in hamburger.

Mr. DEIMEL: Are these statements of fact correct, Mr. Mollin? On September 16, 1939, the steer carcass averaged 17.5 cents a pound in Chicago. I know you cannot keep the prices in your head.

Mr. MOLLIN: I think that is about right.

Mr. DEIMEL: As compared with 10.4 cents for canner cow carcass.

Mr. MOLLIN: Yes.

Mr. DEIMEL: At this price for canner cow carcass every piece goes probably into sausage.

Mr. MOLLIN: That is right.

Mr. DEIMEL: It is dressed canner cows that used to be used for the production of canned beef in this country.

Mr. MOLLIN: Not entirely. The name "canner" has been abused considerably. Canner cow is the lowest type cow.

Mr. DEIMEL: At any rate, it is the cheaper cow.

Mr. MOLLIN: That is right.

Mr. DEIMEL: The cheaper beef was used for the can.

Mr. MOLLIN: That is right.

Mr. DEIMEL: And that goes now into sausage.

Mr. MOLLIN: Yes.

Mr. DEIMEL: If canned corned beef were excluded and if as the result of that consumption were shifted to hamburger or luncheon meats—you have added that now—the American housewife having to take hamburger or luncheon meat because canned corned beef is taken off her table, would not that increase in demand drive up the price of these canner cows and would she not have to pay more then for hamburger?

Mr. MOLLIN: If there were just a stationary supply. But let me call your attention to the fact that when our production is increasing on the farm and range, as it is today, they are holding back the she stuff, and the figures will show that the slaughter of she stuff is light in number; that is, the cows and heifers.

Mr. DEIMEL: When you refer to the she stuff, you refer to the cows used for the production of sausage?

Mr. MOLLIN: The cows and heifers from which that beef comes. The minute we reach the saturation point in numbers, we begin to increase the slaughter of cows and we have more of that type of beef available. I think we are getting close to that point. We will have more of that type of beef available.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where are those cows produced? In the dairy industry?

Mr. MOLLIN: We have the low-grade cows that are culled out of the western herds every year that are of that same type.

THE CHAIRMAN: This canned beef situation is the thing that a fellow can ramble on indefinitely once he is started on it. We were discussing one point, and this is another angle of it. Would there be any production in this country of cattle just for the type of meat that would go into corned beef?

Mr. MOLLIN: I do not think there would be any production of a certain

type of cattle in this country for just that demand, no, but that type of cattle is just one of the natural results of the whole industry. The dairy cow that is sorted out because she is a poor milk producer or because of age, or the range cow that is sorted out because she has served her usefulness, the poor quality heifers—there is plenty of that kind around, there is no shortage of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am trying to get in my own mind what is in your mind, if I can. It is your contention that there is going to be a considerable increase in beef production in this country?

Mr. MOLLIN: It is on the way right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will that involve an increase in the production of this type of cattle that we are talking about?

Mr. MOLLIN: That will come when you reach the saturation point in holding back to build up the herds.

THE CHAIRMAN: That increased production will not probably be taken care of by an increased demand for sausage and things of that sort, and the domestic industry then will have the material to go into the corned beef production. Is that correct?

Mr. MOLLIN: We will have a greater supply of beef of all types available just as soon as our slaughter increases, as it seems to be doing, according to official statements. We will have an increase in all types of beef. I think it would be a serious thing to lower any tariff and encourage the importation of beef at this time, because we have done pretty well. We have held out here and not asked for a government program or government help, like a great many industries have.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand that.

Mr. MOLLIN: We are right at the point now where, if we are going to take care of ourselves without help, we need this market to a greater extent than we have it today.

[To be concluded]

BUFFALO GRASS LAWN

BY V. T. HEIDENREICH

WHO IN THE GREAT PLAINS region has not longed for a type of grass suitable for a lawn and yet one which will thrive under the somewhat adverse growing conditions and be able to survive the protracted droughts which sometimes occur? Buffalo grass admirably fulfills all the above mentioned qualifications and also has the advantage of growing only a few inches high, thus obviating the necessity of frequent cuttings—a quality which should appeal to many home owners.

Buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), a native to the Great Plains region, is often a conspicuous feature in the landscape of the range area. It is one of the most famous grasses in the literature of the West, although many of the best features attributed to it are obviously due to a confusion of species. Although buffalo grass is a palatable and nutritious grass, its value has often been overrated. In western North Dakota, for instance, "buffalo grass" is locally considered to be the outstanding

forage plant, while actually it is very rare, forming but an insignificant part of the range forage, blue grama grass being the plant erroneously referred to as buffalo grass.

Buffalo grass is a low-growing, sod-forming, perennial grass which spreads by means of seed and stolons. The stolons, or runners (similar to strawberry runners), are often twelve to eighteen inches long and take root at each node (joint) that comes in contact with the soil. These stolons provide a positive means of identification, since buffalo grass is the only grass native to the West which produces them.

While buffalo grass has many qualities which make it suitable for lawns, unfortunately the seed is very difficult to collect and is not available commercially. However, many seed-houses in the West sell buffalo grass plants, which may be transplanted and which form a dense sod in a short time. Or, if the grass occurs naturally in a locality, strips of sod may be taken up and transplanted to the new lawn. Covering an entire lawn surface with buffalo grass produces a good turf in a very short time, but it involves much labor. A more economical method is to plant small clumps of sod (about four inches square) in rows about two feet apart each way. Under favorable conditions the natural spread of the plants will soon cover the entire area.

Buffalo grass will withstand moderate grazing and some trampling, but a reasonable amount of protection should be given if it is to be expected to produce a first-class lawn. Buffalo grass grows best on rather heavy clay soil, but its many good qualities as a dry-land lawn grass make its trial on many sites advisable.



Buffalo Grass

DENVER—AMERICAN NATIONAL'S CONVENTION CITY IN JANUARY

BY CHET LETTS

EVER SINCE THE DAYS OF THE TRAPPERS, plainsmen, and miners of those fabulous pioneer days, Denver has been a favorite gathering place of the great West.

Along streets that echoed the tramp of eager feet that sought gold along sparkling streams, high on mountain sides, and of those engaged in trade, has been erected one of America's most beautiful cities . . . the highest metropolitan center on the continent.

It is this new Denver that is waiting to give members of the American National Live Stock Association and their families and friends a warm western welcome in January. Hospitable Denver has what it takes to make a perfect convention city.

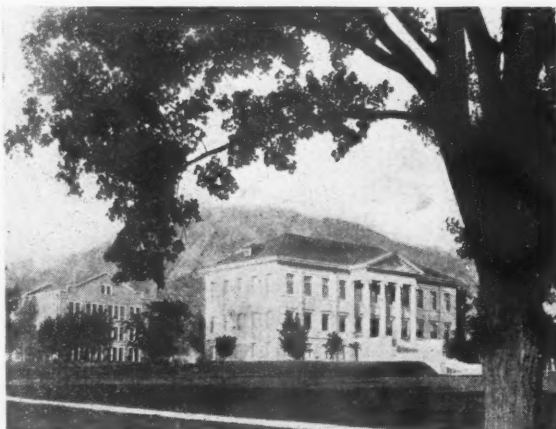
Ever since 1858 Denver has enjoyed playing the role of host, each year offering more to its guests. Today, in addition to a beautiful, modern metropolis that preserves a thrilling touch of the romantic West along side the culture of a newer era, Denver maintains a mountain playground of 25,000 primitive acres for the enjoyment and benefit of all who come . . . great snow-capped peaks and lakes and canyons linked by smooth boulevards to the fast-expanding centers of trade in the heart of Colorado's capital city.

So vast and varied are the attractions in Denver and the surrounding mountain scenic area that most persons coming to Denver for a convention arrange to remain several additional days and avail themselves of the unusual opportunity for recreation. Often convention delegates have arranged in advance to make the convention their Denver vacation.

As the recreational regions of Denver have been expanded from year to year there has been constructed a great net-



Colorado State Capitol as seen from Civic Center



Museum of Natural History, City Park

Among the many interesting attractions in Denver is the state capitol building with its dome of gold leaf taken from the mines of the state that yielded many millions of the world's wealth. Built of Colorado gray granite at a cost of \$3,000,000, the state house forms the east side of Denver's famous Civic Center. The city hall, a beautiful, white structure, is at the west side of a plaza that is a delight to visitors and a source of almost year-round satisfaction to residents.

Five museums not only serve to preserve the history of the West but reveal a pictorial story of the development of the "cow country" to the present day. In addition to these, there is a museum at the summit of near-by Lookout Mountain, along side the tomb of Buffalo Bill Cody. This spot, visited annually by thousands, is only half an hour's ride from the state capitol building.

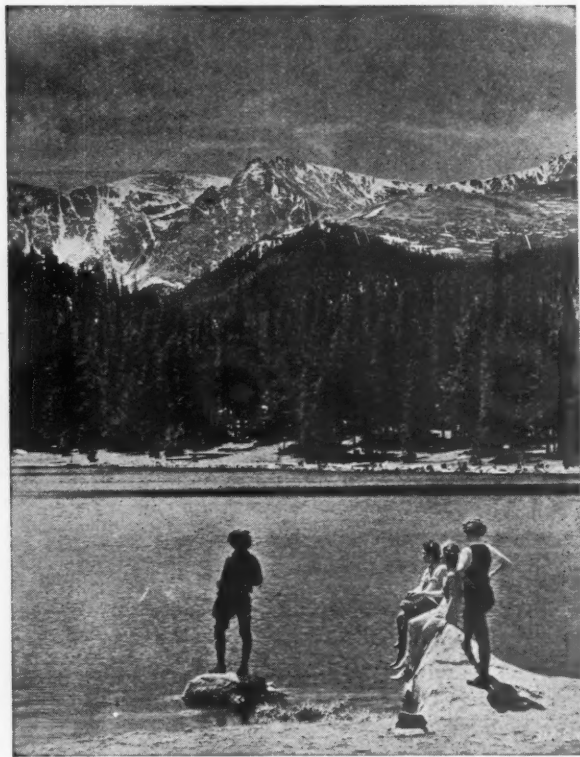
Among the finest museums of the kind in the nation is the celebrated Museum of Natural History, picturesquely located in Denver's City Park. Here are to be found the wild animals of the West, mounted amid settings typical of their natural habitats, and done so deftly that they seem to be alive.

The State Historical Museum, located near the capitol, contains a most fascinating historical exhibit, relics of stirring pioneer days in the West . . . of the Indian wars, Indian mummies, remains of the cliff dwellers of Colorado. The latter is the finest collection in the United States. Also there are trophies of Kit Carson and other pioneers who came ahead of the miner, the trapper, and the cattlemen who have done so much toward the building of the West.

American National Live Stock Association convention dates are January 11, 12, and 13, and on the 13th the National Western Stock Show opens. Denver invites you.

work of smooth, year-round roads leading into the many virgin areas. Accordingly, today a trip from Denver "into the mountains" is a matter of less than half an hour and there are many circle trips available, some to be enjoyed in an hour or two, others requiring as much as two days.

While Denver originally was created as a "man's town" and a town for h- men, succeeding decades have developed a high degree of culture. So, today, the Colorado capital is a city particularly fascinating to the woman and a delight to children. The city's principal shopping district ranks among the finest in the country. There are great stores clustered in a convenient, compact area and scores of shops that offer the finest there is to be had in the land. Like some of the other progressive cities of the West, Denver offers the shopper "the latest" at all seasons.



Echo Lake in Denver Mountain Parks

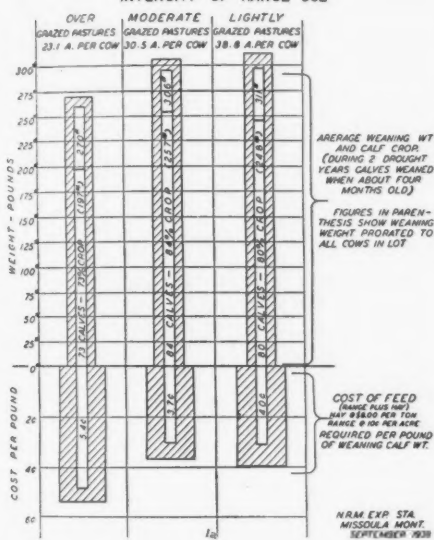
OVERGRAZING RAISES PRODUCTION COSTS

BY LEON C. HURTT

Senior Range Examiner, Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

OVERGRAZING INCREASES FEED costs of producing range calves by more than one-third when compared with production costs on adjacent range grazed more conservatively, according to the result from a range experiment at Miles City, Montana, conducted over a

WEANING WEIGHTS & FEED COSTS



five-year period by the station in cooperation with the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The experiment was started in 1933 on typical short grass range pastures on which blue grama, bluestem wheatgrass, niggerhead, and buffalo grass predominated. The object was to find the best range utilization and management practices for such ranges. The experimental area was subdivided into three portions, each grazed at a different degree or intensity of use: overgrazed 23.1, moderately grazed 30.5, and lightly grazed 38.8 acres per head, respectively, by three groups of twenty breeding cows and their calves. High-grade Hereford cows of uniform age and breeding were selected for this test and grazed on the three adjacent sets of native range pastures. More supplemental feed in the form of hay was required for cows on the small pastures, otherwise the breeding, care, and other factors were the same for all lots.

Mainly as a result of the extreme drought during the 1934 and 1936 seasons, the density of vegetation on representative quadrants in all pastures had by early 1937 declined to approximately 10 per cent of the 1933 density level. As a result of quite favorable weather during two successive growing

seasons of 1938 and 1939, there has been a substantial increase from this low point, but the total density is still somewhat below the predrought level of 1933. Fortunately, there has been an unusual height growth of the drought-thinned grasses during the past two favorable seasons which has partially compensated in volume production for reduced density.

The decline and subsequent increase in density of range forage was not, during the first five years, significantly different under the three intensities of grazing. This is readily explained by the fact that extreme drought in 1934 and 1936 completely overshadowed the effects of different degrees of use during the first stage of the experiment. The experiment will continue to follow trends of vegetation and response of cattle to intensity of grazing for several years.

Penalty Consistently Evident

Despite the uniform trends of forage density under these three intensities of grazing, the penalty exacted by overgrazing has been consistently evident from the beginning in the form of lower calf crops and lighter weaning calves on overgrazed as compared with more conservatively grazed ranges. During the five-year period of this experiment, the twenty cows in each lot produced seventy-three, eighty-four, and eighty weaning calves that weighed 19,710, 25,704, and 24,880 pounds on overgrazed, moderately grazed, and lightly grazed range, respectively. When prorated to all the twenty cows of each lot, this amounts to more than fifty pounds of additional calf weight annually for each cow on the moderately and lightly grazed pastures over and above weights on the overgrazed pastures. The average calf crop, weaning weight, and the average production per cow (including dry cows), as well as the average feed cost per pound of weaning calf weight produced by each lot, are compared on the accompanying chart.

Attention is directed to the comparative feed costs shown by the bottom section of this chart. Because the cows on overgrazed ranges had to be fed greater amounts of hay, the cost of feed for each pound of weaning calf weight was increased to 5.4 cents per pound, or more than one-third above that on either the moderately or lightly grazed lots. This is not all. The lighter calves from the overgrazed lot had a lower market value per pound. Furthermore, the cows of this lot were also thinner and sold for less when replacements were necessary. Thus the range operator who by heavy grazing reduces his calf production by 50 pounds or more per breeding cow and at the same time is forced to feed more expensive hay to supplement cheap but inadequate range forage places himself under nearly a hopeless handicap of increased feed cost and greater risks that tend to prevent profitable production.

Even though the density of vegetation on these ranges was reduced uniformly by the drought, the economic fallacy of overgrazing is clearly seen from the calf production data. It is anticipated that the penalty of overgrazing will be accentuated as the effects of overgrazing become significant, as is almost inevitable over a longer period of years. Such overuse usually results in accelerated run-off and erosion as well as cumulative range deterioration. Such a range practice thus leads in a vicious circle of higher costs and reduced returns.

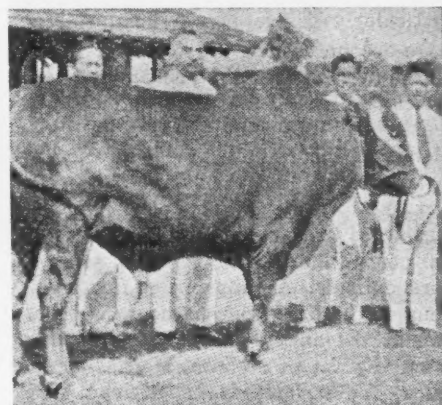
IMPORT OF AFRIKANDER CATTLE TO PHILIPPINES*

NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW THE exact origin of the so-called native cattle in the Philippines. Before the advent of the Nellore cattle from British India, several distinct types of the native cattle, among which are Batangas, Ilocos, and Fuga, were already recognized. Available records indicate that the lineage of these types is traceable to Chinese, Cambodian, and Spanish origin. The extensive use of Indian Nellore bulls in large established herds since 1909, especially in the Visayan Islands and Mindanao, practically wiped out the native type in those ranches; yet the native types of cattle still exist in large numbers throughout the country where farmers and peasants own just a few head of cattle per family.

Whatever is the type of the native cattle, the outstanding characteristics are fundamentally the same, being small, lowset, compact, and hardy.

The first efforts of the Philippine government to improve the native cattle were made in 1903, one year after the organization of the erstwhile Bureau of Agriculture under Act No. 261 of the Philippine Commission. Since Jerseys and Shorthorns were first imported, it appears that those who were responsible for this action had in mind to develop dairying as a starting point. Of course, the Shorthorn is a dual-purpose breed,

*Reprinted from *Philippine Journal of Animal Industry*.



Afrikaner Bull

but the purchase of a large number of Jersey cows and several Holsteins, both dairy breeds, in the following year shows that beef production was not so seriously considered as dairying. In 1905 and 1907, however, beef breeds were imported for crossing and upgrading purposes to improve the beef qualities of the native stock. Such breeds were Aberdeen-Angus, Devons, Herefords, and Gallo-ways. By 1909 it became the consensus that the chances of improving the native cattle through the use of imported European breeds were not bright, on account of the loss of such breeds due to the effects of the oriental environment, such as disease, parasites, climate, feeds, and also possibly to the lack of knowledge of management. The remaining dairy breeds after severe losses were so poor in condition and so hopeless that they were disposed of by public auction. The beef breeds, likewise, did not thrive.

The period between 1906 and 1912 seems to have been an upheaval of interest in animal industry in the tropics. The western beef breeds of cattle, while superior in quality to the indigenous oriental breeds, have not been proved to thrive normally in Asia and adjoining islands under natural range condition. During this period more than 800 Mysore cattle were shipped to Java, and they proved such a success that the Dutch government sent agents to Ongole to buy Nellore cattle, which were considered better than the Mysore. In 1908 Japan purchased over 300 bulls of the Kangreji type from British India. About 1912, Jamaica imported Porto Rican bulls which were more or less pure West African blood (Senegambian), a race which somewhat resembles the famous Afrikaner cattle of South Africa.

During this same period, in 1909, the Philippine government kept pace with the other oriental countries and purchased Nellore cattle from British India. This breed is one of the long-famous and pre-eminent breeds of cattle in southern India for being huge in size, extremely docile when tamed, suitable for heavy draft, and reputed to be unsurpassed for slow, heavy, and steady work. At this time, this breed has been imported into Brazil, Argentina, Java, and Africa in considerable numbers, and a few have found their way into the United States, particularly Texas.

On account of the yearly havoc in the Philippines caused by rinderpest, the agricultural need for work animals was keenly felt. The introduction into the islands of the Nellore breed, having the reputation of being resistant to rinderpest and to ecto- and endoparasites, was considered to be the solution of the problem confronted by the lack of breed and work animals. A shipment of fine specimens of the breed purchased with great care at the annual Ongole Cattle Show in the district of Nellore, Madras Presidency, India, formed the nucleus of a government pure Nellore herd in the Philippine Islands. Some of the bulls

were distributed for crossbreeding and upgrading purposes throughout the country. The offsprings resulting from the crosses between the native cows and Nellore bulls were then considered outstanding as work animals and fair as source of beef. So popular the breed became in the absence of a better one that, aside from free services of bulls extended to the public at the breeding stations, cattlemen bought from the government herd as many bulls as could be supplied. Today almost all cattle in the established ranches have more or less Nellore blood. For want of a better breed which would thrive well under the Philippine environment and under ordinary system of management, the government had no alternative but to endorse this breed for beef production. The breed, with all its faults, must be given the justice which it deserves, because, to its hardiness and size, coupled with the attainment of success in the control of rinderpest, our self-sufficiency in beef may largely be attributed. Self-sufficiency was evident prior to 1930, in which year a law was passed by the Philippine legislature prohibiting the importation of live stock for slaughter purposes. This law was wise, because it protected the beef industry and at the same time did not hamper the steady increase in the number of cattle, reaching, in round figures, 1,500,000 head in 1937.

Although the Indian Nellore breed has the size, hardiness, and suitability to ranching conditions in the Philippines, still it fails to satisfy our want for a good beef animal. It is tall and narrow, and the meat is slightly dark in color, lacking the marbling, texture, conformation, finish, and tenderness of ideal beef. Since animals for draft purposes are now more than what are needed, attention is at present directed toward the production of quality beef.

The results of our past experience and that of other oriental countries in attempting to raise pure European breeds of cattle under range condition do not offer encouragement in the propagation

of these breeds in this country at this time. Nevertheless, one should not take this to mean that further experiments on these breeds are not worth making, because science may (1) discover the way to correct the environment in order to suit the breed or (2) to pick out the western breed, or else use it to evolve one, that suits the Philippine environment. The use of the Sussex on Nellore cattle by this bureau serves to illustrate the latter point. But when funds, time, and men are limited, as are obtaining in this country, the least expensive and shortest course is to be pursued.

The Afrikaner cattle, already recognized as a hardy breed of sufficient size with beef carcass which has established a reputation for itself even in the export beef trade in Europe, is an oriental breed, the history of which indicates that it is of Asiatic origin. This breed is considered by the Boers to be unsurpassed as work animal. These sterling qualities of the Afrikaner cattle attracted the attention of the Bureau of Animal Industry several years ago, but its introduction into this country was delayed on account of lack of funds.

The Afrikaner has proved itself capable of thriving well under varying conditions of environment in South Africa, in Rhodesia, and in Texas. It is able to subsist in the arid lands where leaves of trees and shrubs form the major part of the pasturage, without any extra feeding. It is the only breed of cattle which can maintain itself in the dry and barren Karoo. It has adapted itself in the rainy regions of tropical Rhodesia and South Africa. Such proved adaptability to radical changes of climate, altitude, and pasture and its resistance to tick-borne diseases and external parasites are a guarantee that this breed will be raised successfully in the Philippines.

In South Africa, where the climate is temperate and subtropical, the western breeds of live stock cannot be raised normally even after correcting the known defects of environment. But the Afrikaner appears to stand those defects pretty well under natural conditions and develop normally in the corrected environment. For this reason, it has often been said by experts and cattlemen in South Africa that the Afrikaner will be the premier beef breed in South Africa in the near future.

This breed offers great possibilities in this country for pure breeding for stud and beef production and also for crossbreeding and upgrading with the pure native and the grade and pure Nellore for commercial beef cattle ranching. The cattlemen of this country who made orders for this breed with the government for use as outlined above showed great foresight, because we are confident that they will not fail. This historical shipment puts the Philippines on the map as the pioneer importer of this famous beef breed in this part of the globe.



AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

THE EXPIRING YEAR IN RETROSPECT

BY JAMES E. POOLE

OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF 1939 may be briefly enumerated. At this season long-winded trade reviews are inevitable. Most of them go into the wastebasket as they tell of water gone over the dam. A few guideposts for the future have been set up; the details would be merely rehash of ancient history, as valuable as yesterday's newspaper.

The story may be told paragraphically to maximum advantage. Otherwise it would be tedious.

A fat-cattle market several points in price below that of 1937 and 1938 was a distinct disappointment to feeders, who, however, have no legitimate reason for complaint, as with few exceptions no serious loss accrued. Ninety per cent of the cattle fed paid out. Even the "big brutes" got by, for which cheap feed was responsible.

Light cattle, including yearlings, scored again. A market surfeited with long-fed bullocks was in striking contrast to a deficient supply below 1,050 pounds; also heifers. This merely emphasizes the trend of consumer demand.

Slaughter fell below official and other forecasts, although this was offset by weight. Up to October, when a 1 per

cent increase compared with the same month last year was registered, the BAI tally was 5 per cent less than 1938.

Spreads between the upper crust of supply and less desirable types were narrow. Yearlings actually outsold big steers much of the time. A phenomenal demand for heifer yearlings was notable. Not long ago they were penalized \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt.; this year they sold at a parity with yearling steers and even above long-fed choice heavies.

A short run of western grass beef—the shortest in trade history—was another phenomena operating to the advantage of short-feds and warmed-ups, which in the halcyon plenitude period of the western industry had no dependable footing in competition with high-yielding "rangers."

Short feeding bagged most of the money; long-feds least, frequently figuring in carmine writing fluid. All the grief generated this year came from the ten- to twelve-month feeding element. This is symptomatic and will be reflected in 1940 marketings.

A runaway stocker market indicated that feeders are holding the short end of the stick, faced with narrowing profit margins—meaning the spread between replacement and realization prices. One way to evade this dilemma is buying less weight, which beef-makers are resorting to multitudinously.

Imports expanded—a temporary con-

dition, as Mexico has shot its wad by imperative liquidation in apprehension of communistic confiscation. Canada cannot repeat this year's performance, as the European war has effected a radical change in conditions across the northern border.

Suspension of trans-Atlantic passenger travel "for the duration" put a crimp in heavy beef demand—another argument in favor of anti-weight. Boston also backed away from this type of cattle, for which it has been a standby since Noah constructed his ark.

Poultry production expanded to unprecedented poundage, acquiring selling force that developed hot competition for animal foods. Cheap turkey raffle tickets enjoy a circulation calculated to arouse bureaucratic jealousy.

Disregarding Secretary Wallace's solemn warning, the Corn Belt invested heavily in breeding crates, swelling pork production to a volume responsible for close to depression prices and suggesting advisability of a second pig massacre to avert disaster. Cheap pork was highly detrimental to beef. In fact, spreads between cattle and hogs were surprisingly wide.

A demoralized lard market was relieved by heavy British and French buying at a moment when "soapers" were acquiring the commodity at tallow prices.

Hog slaughter expanded to the largest volume since 1934. Notable increase



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was in the cotton states, where government influence is responsible for installing a swine industry on acreage redeemed from cotton.

Live-mutton markets were rescued from threatened demoralization by an advancing wool market, now considered the sheepman's life-saver. Expansion in some areas and declines in others were recorded.

Actual drought in many western areas and threats in the farming territory deserve mention. Whenever the corn crop was actually menaced timely rain saved the day. A fall and early winter drought east of the Missouri River is scented as an advance agent of a short corn crop next year.

All breeding stock—bovine, porcine, and ovine—moved into higher price brackets, symptomatic of optimism in producing circles and indicative of superabundance of actually low cost feed.

Rehashing prices has no place in the dissertation. Everybody interested is thoroughly posted on the subject, which is a monthly serial in the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER.

What about next year? Peruse the January issue.

USE OF ELECTRIC FENCE ON THE RANGE

BY FRED N. ARES

Superintendent, Jornada Experimental Range

ELECTRIC FENCES HAVE SHOWN considerable promise as a means of controlling the distribution of live stock on the range. Tests on the Jornada Experimental Range have indicated that they can be very effectively used under certain range conditions but that some improvements will have to be made in the electrical equipment if it is to be universally successful under all conditions.

In August, 1938, three and a half miles of one-wire fence were constructed around one of the large tobosa flats on the Jornada for the purpose of holding cattle on the tobosa summer feed and at the same time protecting the surrounding grama grass from heavy use during the growing season. Following the heavy rains in July, the tobosa grass was green and succulent, and when the fence was built the soil was very damp. However, before the electrical unit ordered arrived the soil had dried out thoroughly, and the first results on this dry soil were disappointing. About 140 yearling heifers were placed inside the enclosure, and at first they passed back and forth under the wire freely. After about three days a light shower fell, wetting the ground to a depth of about one-half inch, and following this there was no more passing back and forth under or even approaching the charged wire. A trail in the moist sand inside showed that the animals never came

closer than four feet of the wire, and salt placed near the line was approached with extreme caution and from one side only.

As a trial, the yearlings were kept in the enclosure about three weeks, during which time none escaped. The wire was then taken down, and the yearlings had to be driven out of the enclosure. It is believed that none would have voluntarily passed between any of the standing posts even after the wire had been let down, at least not for some time afterwards.

During the 1939 season, rainfall was so deficient on the area fenced in 1938 that it was not possible to use it for further tests, but a smaller pasture was constructed where water and feed were available. It was stocked with a small herd of cattle and functioned very satisfactorily after the soil became moist.

A further test to determine the value of the electric fence in segregating poison plant areas was carried out this year. A heavy infestation of the poisonous drymaria was found near the south boundary, and being adjacent to the fence it was possible to enclose a large area with only three-fourths mile of the fence. This proved to be very effective in keeping cattle away during the danger period.

The chief value of such an enclosure on ranges such as the Jornada seems to be that of holding cattle on summer feed, especially where such feed areas are intermingled with and sometimes entirely surrounded by range supporting grama grass which must be reserved for winter use. For this purpose these one-wire fences can be constructed quickly and cheaply and can be easily removed when no longer needed. Other uses suggested by the ease of construction or moving these fences are: Segregation of poison plant areas, holding non-breeding stock such as yearling heifers separate, and holding breeding cows and bulls together in an effort to increase the calf crop. The breeding period usually coincides with the summer season when it is desired to confine cattle as closely as possible on summer feed areas.

The cost of electric fences varies from \$20 to \$35 a mile, depending upon the length of fence built, type of post (metal or wooden), and type of electrical equipment used. The maintenance cost is very low. The electrical current may be supplied by an ordinary six-volt auto storage battery, which will run four or five months before it is necessary to recharge. The wire must be well insulated from contact with the ground and patrolled frequently, especially when first used, to repair any short circuits or ground. The better control units have a device by which grounds are indicated at the control box. Electric fences have been rather universally successful wherever soil moisture conditions are such as to insure a good electrical contact. They should work out suc-

cessfully on Southwestern ranges if the difficulties of making satisfactory contacts on dry soils can be overcome. It is expected that some improvement can be made in the electrical equipment which will increase the effectiveness of the electric fence under dry soil conditions. Also it has been found that if the live stock becomes "educated" to the electric fence, it will respect it from then on. This educational training can be accomplished by holding live stock in small enclosures with an electric fence, or it may be accomplished by erecting the fence on the range when the soil is moist. This latter method is probably much more practical as far as range operations are concerned.

PROBLEM OF GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS*

BY F. R. CARPENTER

I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS a prevalent idea among stockmen using forest and Taylor grazing lands that the issue before them is that of taking sides with one of the departments of government, agriculture or interior, in their struggle to take over the other's domain.

The argument in favor of not taking sides and of continuing the present competitive aspects of the two grazing services was well put by an Idaho stockman recently when he said:

"There never was a time when we could get so much out of the Forest Service as now, since they are competing with the Taylor Grazing Act."

I want to go on record right now of not being in favor of lining up with either department to take over the other, or of staying neutral for the purpose of enjoying the fruits of competition, and I am going to tell you why.

When I was a small boy, I went to our church to a midnight service commemorating the coming in of this twentieth century. Among the notable talks I heard on that occasion, I well remember the words of one wise and successful business man, who said:

"The nineteenth century has had for its watchword 'competition.' The twentieth century is going to have a substitute watchword for 'competition' and it is going to be 'co-operation.'"

The stockmen of today will not profit permanently by any other means than co-operation—co-operation between themselves and other stockmen and co-operation between themselves and government bureaus.

Competition between government bureaus today is only for the purpose of gaining stockmen's support for one purpose, and that is to expand a government bureau in order that it may become either the sole administrative body

* Condensed from address delivered before the annual convention of the California Wool Growers' Association in San Francisco, California, September 22, 1939.

for all public grazing or at least be sure to retain what it now has. And, let me ask you, just what is the benefit to be gained by a stockman in augmenting the power and domain of a government bureau? Some temporary immediate gains? Do you want to sell your souls for a mess of pottage?

The real effort of stockmen should not be to augment any bureau or to try to profit by competition between bureaus, but it should be to co-operate with other stockmen and with any and every governmental official and bureau that will go along with him in his fight to limit the discretionary strangle hold which all government bureaus try to get over all businesses they administer. It is co-operation which will win, and not competition.

Remember that today two government bureaus control nearly 300,000,000 acres of land—one-sixth of the total area of the whole United States—and until July 14, 1939, that vast empire was under the almost total discretionary power of two officials, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, and you stockmen whose businesses are under their thumbs were asked to side with one or the other or to take what temporary sop you could get to help aggrandize their power.

If you have any right to call yourselves American citizens by right of

allegiance to the best principles of our government, you would be concerned with how you were going to get some representation in the governing councils of this great grazing area—not some sop but some right. For five years by administrative largess you have been given the right to elect local advisory boards of stockmen to assist the government officials of the Taylor districts, and their success marked a real high in stockman-government co-ordination; and yet, when it was proposed here in San Francisco in February of this year at the American National Live Stock Association convention to profit by this experiment and make the local boards a legal part of the government of public land grazing, the National Wool Growers' Association would not back up that effort. I was present for a few minutes in Mr. Wing's office [Mr. Wing is secretary of the California Wool Growers' Association] when the question was being discussed, and your national officers were apathetic. It remained for a small committee of cattlemen to go down to Washington and lobby for that great law which Congress enacted on July 14, 1939, which for the first time in history gave some legal credence to the slogan "Home Rule on the Range."

That recent law should be regarded as a Magna Charta for stockmen, wrung as it was from unwilling administrators.

You men should extend this privilege of representation to all forest grazing, and sheepmen should stand shoulder to shoulder with cowmen to do it and not be sulking in their tents. The only future for free men grazing their flocks or herds on public lands is to have some representative elected as of right to sit at the council table where the policies are made. Can't you see where you will be led if you stay divided? It is as dangerous to take sides with one government bureau against another as it is to remain neutral and see them grow. Your concern is to extend the principles of democratic government into this great one-sixth of the United States which is now under autocratic control, and to do it is going to take cool and wise heads and lots of co-operation.

NEVADA STATE CATTLE ASSOCIATION HOLDS MEET

TWO OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS of the American National Live Stock Association, President Hubbard Russell and Secretary F. E. Mollin, were heard by delegates to the Nevada State Cattle Association convention at Elko October 26 and 27 on matters vital to the stockman's interest.

President Russell, outlining several of the industry's national problems, illus-

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No. 3	3/16 in.	1/4 in.	Mineralized	Feed-lot
No. 4	3/16 in.	1/4 in.	No Minerals	Feed-lot

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trated the importance of organization among stockmen by giving a picture of the effectiveness of labor unions whose membership is made up of but 13 per cent of the total laborers.

The work of the American National Live Stock Association on transportation matters, notably on the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate case now pending, was reviewed by the speaker. He lauded Nevada's junior senator, Pat McCarran, for the work he had done for the industry. McCarran's live-stock theft bill, twice vetoed, would be reintroduced in the next Congress, he said.

The dangers of the reciprocal trade agreement policy, especially as it may work out in negotiations with Argentina, were stressed by Secretary Mollin. He expressed belief that a "showdown on the policy of writing agreements at the expense of American agriculture" is near at hand. The industry "is on top" in the fight against ratification of the Argentina sanitary convention, he believed.

On the Bang's disease question, the speaker declared that stockmen had a right to know the results of the government's experiments with vaccination to be concluded a year hence and should not now be forced to adopt the present uneconomical and unsound blood-test program.

In the reorganization proposals affecting public grazing lands, Mollin said that stockmen should be concerned not so much with "who administers the range, as with how it is administered."

Other speakers at the session included Dr. Warren P. Earl, of the State Board of Stock Commissioners; C. A. Brennan, range economist; Alexander McQueen, supervisor of the Toiyabe Forest; G. W. Kerr, representative of the Taylor Grazing Division; and C. N. Wood, regional forester from Ogden, Utah. Presiding at the sessions was William B. Wright, president of the Nevada association. Charles A. Sewell is secretary of the body.

Resolutions adopted demanded amendment next year to provide for Senate ratification of trade agreements; opposed further consideration of the Argentine sanitary convention; urged enactment of the McCarran live-stock theft bill; opposed compulsory range cattle testing program "as entirely unjustified and unnecessary;" opposed a processing tax on cattle or cattle products.

A resolution on the wage-hour law urged "that the law be so amended that the fourteen weeks exemption period from the overtime provisions of this act be applied to all packing-house workers from the initial act of slaughtering the animal to the final act of distributing the product and by-products."

In the event of a reorganization order, stated one of the resolutions, "it is of paramount importance that provisions be incorporated therein adequately protecting the right of all present qualified users of such public lands."

Inclusion in public range use regulation of provision insuring to the individual permittee, within upper limits provided, the award of increased carrying capacity resulting from his own conservation practices was asked.

Petition was made to the "Taylor Grazing Administration and other agencies to proceed as rapidly as possible to fence roads at critical points recommended by advisory boards, making due provision for underpasses, to preserve proper use of water and range so safeguarded."

In a memorial resolution to the late John B. Garat, Sr., sympathy of the association membership was conveyed to the Garat family.

William B. Wright, manager of the 71 Ranch at Deeth, Nevada, was re-elected president of the Nevada State Cattle Association. Other officers elected included W. H. Gilmar, of O'Neil, first vice-president; A. J. Dewar, of Lee, second vice-president; and C. A. Sewell, of Elko, secretary-treasurer.

OKLAHOMANS DETERMINED TO PERFECT ORGANIZATION

THE SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Oklahoma Live Stock Growers' Association, held in Oklahoma City November 16-17, was made up of an informal meeting the first day, coupled with a formal business session of the executive committee, followed by a banquet and dance in the evening and a regular speaking program the second day.

On the morning of the second day addresses were made by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, who spoke on the damage being wrought by the reciprocal trade program now being pushed; by Congressman Mike Monroney, and H. E. Floyd, editor of the *Kansas Stockman*. Congressman Monroney essayed the difficult task of defending the reciprocal trade policy as a whole, although he was one of the witnesses at the recent hearing in Washington opposing the trade agreement with Argentina.

W. J. Dancer, of Dewey, was elected president and W. E. Harvey, of Ada, vice-president for the coming year. Election of a secretary-treasurer was delayed until a full meeting of the executive committee could be held on December 9.

Considerable time was spent in discussing the matter of branding and of services which might be rendered by the association, with particular reference to the stopping of cattle thefts. Among subjects which are to be studied by a committee for later report and action are the posting of owners' premises with a sign indicating membership in the association and the question of reward payments for the conviction of thieves.

Resolutions were adopted as follows: Expressing determination to carry on

and perfect this new organization of cattle growers; expressing thanks to Secretary J. H. Johnston, Wayne Rowe, Clarence Roberts, and to the speakers at the meeting; expressing thanks to persons and firms who have aided in the establishment of the association through the medium of taking out association memberships; recommending affiliation with the American National Live Stock Association; recommending appointment of a legislative committee to work out a program for the association to be presented to the executive committee; recommending special freight rates on feed-stuffs in certain drought areas.

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION GROUPS MEET

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S Association member local groups held their annual fall meetings October 30 to November 4.

The Madera County Cattlemen's Association met on October 30 at Madera. Joseph M. Urrutia was elected president; John O'Neal, vice-president; Kenneth A. Wagnon, secretary-treasurer; and Harvey Russell, representative to the California Cattlemen's Association. The Tulare County Cattlemen's Association met at Visalia on October 31; the Kern County Cattlemen's Association at Bakersfield on November 1; the cattlemen from Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino at Los Angeles on November 2; the stockmen of Imperial Valley at Brawley on November 3; and the Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association at Los Alamos on November 4.

John Curry, secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association; Clyde Harris, supervisor of the cattle protective service; and F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, attended all the meetings and addressed them. Hubbard Russell, president of the American National Live Stock Association, attended and spoke at all the meetings with the exception of those held at Madera and Brawley.

Various problems of the cattlemen from a state standpoint and accomplishment of the state legislature during its last session were the subjects discussed by John Curry. Mr. Curry also included a brief summary of the activities of the California Cattlemen's Association.

Clyde Harris reported on the problem of brand inspection, covering the work at both local and central markets. He reviewed briefly the activities of his department relative to cattle thievery and live-stock identification. The work of his department was the subject of warm debate at several of the meetings. It developed that a committee of prominent stockmen is already making a study of the situation for later report.

Activities of the American National Live Stock Association during the past year were reviewed by F. E. Mollin. Particular stress was given the recipro-

cal trade program. Mr. Mollin discussed the proposed Argentine trade treaty and told of the brief filed by the American National Live Stock Association and the oral argument before the Committee on Reciprocity Information at Washington. Appearance of so many congressmen and senators before the committee signified that the opposition to the program has reached huge proportions, he said.

Hubbard Russell spoke on value of organization and necessity for close cooperation. Mr. Russell pointed out that the affiliation and co-operation of the associations with the state and national bodies is essential to the protection and well-being of the industry. He stated emphatically that the many problems before the industry are of such importance, some even aimed at the very roots of the industry, that a united front is imperative.

The meetings were well attended and much interest and enthusiasm was shown. Other speakers who appeared were Dr. C. U. Duckworth, at Los Angeles; Sidney Anderson, county farm adviser, and Gene Kellogg, horticultural commissioner, at Los Alamos.

PERMITTEES CONFER WITH FOREST SERVICE OFFICIALS

FOREST GRAZING PERMITTEES of Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota are opposed to present upper limits and do not want any general reduction in grazing numbers.

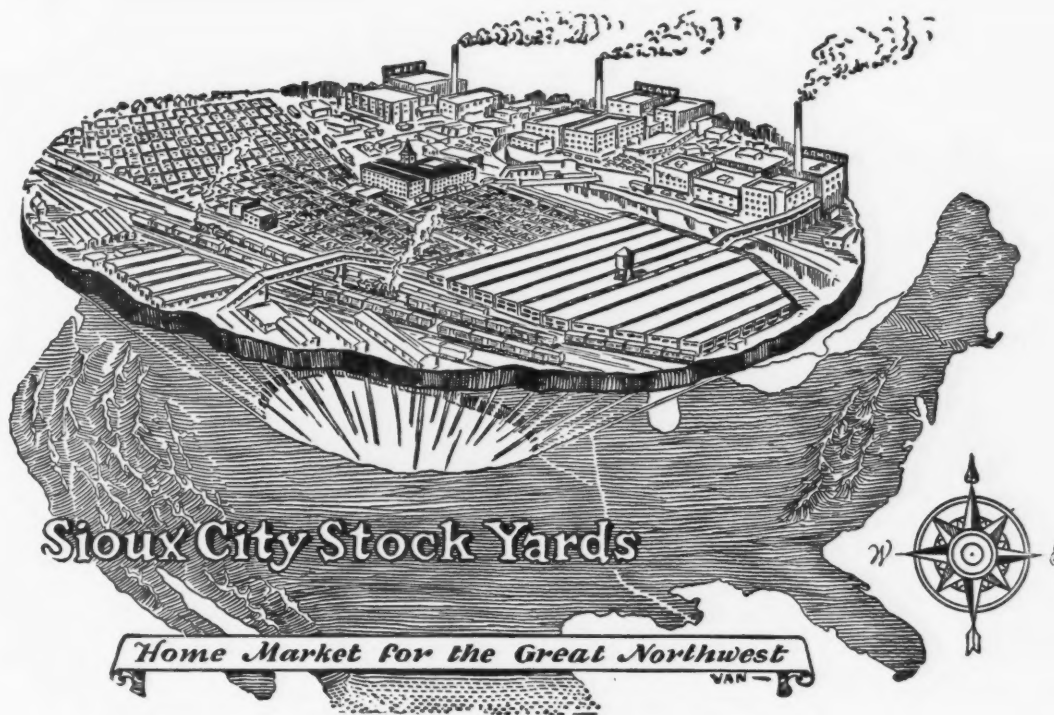
These complaints were lodged when more than fifty cattle and sheep permittees and live-stock association officials met in a two-day session with forest officials at Denver, November 3-4.

J. B. Wilson, secretary of Wyoming

Wool Growers' Association was chairman. Spokesman for both cattle and sheep growers at the session was G. N. Winder of Craig, Colorado. Forest officials who heard the grievances of the stockmen were Walter Dutton, Washington, D. C., chief of range management, Allen S. Peck, regional forester of Region 2, and Glenn Smith, assistant regional forester.

Answering stockmen's charges that local meetings at which upper limits have been discussed were not representative because many attending did not understand limit proposals, the forest men pointed to stockmen's apathy in co-operating in coming out to meetings and riding the range for inspection with supervisors. The growers contended that existing upper limits are a handicap prohibiting future development for the smaller permittees.

[The upper limit is the number of live



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stock up to which dependent commensurate preferences may be consolidated through purchases with waiver and below which such preferences will not be reduced for distribution.

[The lower limit is the number up to which dependent commensurate preferences may accrue by grant. In other words, it is the point to which the service will try to build by grant when land is available. It might loosely be called the minimum satisfactory or economical operating level.]

The permittees by committee recommended a new set of upper and lower limits, raising the upper to 4,000 and 6,000 sheep in many forests where limits had been reduced to 2,400 and recommending upper limits for cattle in many cases 500 head against the old 400. In some instances recommended limits were hiked much higher.

Permittee talks also brought out the objections that permittees suddenly get a notice of reduction for protection without an opportunity to present their side of the case or make preparation. The committee recommended "that the future policy of the Forest Service be that, where any change in policy is contemplated, notice be given a full year in advance or, more specifically, during the spring of the year before the cut is contemplated and that cuts now contemplated be delayed wherever possible to the 1941 grazing season."

Other motions were:

"That where necessary cuts are made for protection that the number cut will be carried as holdovers until range improvements warrant the original number or a fraction thereof on each individual allotment."

"The clause covering reductions in transfer be retired from the rules of the forest."

"In respect to range protection each allotment should stand on its own feet and no general overhaul reduction be made."

MEETING NOTES

THE WYOMING FARM BUREAU, meeting at Newcastle, Wyoming, late in October, adopted a resolution "urging representatives in the Congress to do whatever lies within their power to prevent the negotiating of any more trade treaties until the United States Senate regains its constitutional right to confirm or reject such treaties." The resolution explained that the reciprocal trade treaties "seem to have lost their original intent, formally expressed by our Secretary of State in his Montevideo speech of 1934 as an exchange 'of the things you have that we want for the things we have that you want,' and this project has now been so enlarged that it has completely broken away from its original expressed intent until it threatens the complete dissolution of our tariff barriers, and these barriers have been

carefully builded through many years as a means by which the American standard of life might be protected, perfected, and perpetuated." . . . The reciprocity trade agreements being sponsored by Secretary of State Hull came in for a hard hammering at the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation at a recent Chicago meeting.

KANSAS COUNTY GROUP

Kansas cattlemen met for the fourteenth annual convention of the Greenwood County Cattlemen's Association in Eureka October 27. Speakers included Governor Payne H. Ratner; Tom Collins, Kansas City editorial writer; Dan C. Smith, president of the Wichita Union Stock Yards Company. Officers of the association are L. A. Ladd, president; Ward A. McGinnis, vice-president; and M. W. Allen, secretary-treasurer.

MEAT INSTITUTE OFFICERS

George A. Schmidt, president of Stahl-Meyer, Inc., of New York, was elected chairman of the board of directors of the Institute of American Meat Packers, succeeding T. Henry Foster, president of John Morrell and Company, Ottumwa, Iowa, at the closing session of the institute's thirty-fourth annual convention at Chicago in October. Wesley Hardenbergh, who has been acting president of the institute, was elected president.

CALIFORNIA LOCAL MEETS

San Mateo County cattlemen met at the Keystone Ranch recently to hear E. W. Stephens, president of the South San Francisco Union Stock Yards; Earl Schlaman, secretary of the Pacific States Live Stock Marketing Association; and Louis Rochford, university extension expert in live stock. Prominent stockmen in attendance included A. C. Matei of Pescadero, James Rolph, III, Gatis Yates, and William Condren. Jere Sheldon, president of the Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Association, was present.

ARIZONA GROUP MEETS

At the annual meeting of the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association at Steve Bixby's ranch, Globe, Arizona, officers re-elected were: Bill Spurlock, of Young, president; Pecos McFadden, of Globe, vice-president; Steve Bixby, secretary; and Frank L. Parker, of Globe, treasurer. Included among speakers were Frank Grubb and Lee Kirby, forest supervisors; Charles U. Pickrell, director of extension service; and E. B. Stanley, animal husbandman, of the University of Arizona. The Gila County association's customary annual contribution of \$400 was sent to the American National Live Stock Association. Members contribute on a per head basis for support of the American National.



Group of prize-winning Jersey cows being milked to the soothing strains of radio music at Randleigh Farm, Lockport, New York. Owned by William R. Kenan, Jr., president of the Florida East Coast Hotel Company.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 2-9—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.
- 7-8—St. Louis Live Stock Exchange Baby Beef Show, National Stock Yards, Ill.
- 8-9—California Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, San Francisco.
- 8-9—Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Ass'n Convention, Ft. Worth.
- 14-15—Junior Calf Club Show, National Stock Yards, Ill.

JANUARY

- 5-11—Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- 11-13—AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASS'N CONVENTION, DENVER.
- 13-20—National Western Stock Show, Denver.
- 23-25—National Wool Growers' Ass'n Convention, Casper, Wyo.

FEBRUARY

- 21-24—Southwest Texas Boys' Fat Stock Show, San Antonio.

MARCH

- 1-4—Fat Stock Show, San Angelo, Tex.
- 3-6—Amarillo Fat Stock Show, Amarillo, Tex.
- 8-17—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.
- 12-14—Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Ass'n Convention, Fort Worth.
- 23-31—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.

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Traffic Counsel—CHARLES E. BLAINE, Phoenix, Ariz.

Assistant Traffic Counsel—CALVIN L. BLAINE, Phoenix, Ariz.

Vol. XXI December 1939 No. 7

CALL FOR CONVENTION

To Members of the American National Live Stock Association, Affiliated Organizations, and Stockmen Generally:

CALL IS HEREBY ISSUED FOR the Forty-third Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association to be held in Denver, Colorado, January 11-13, 1940.

* * *

Stockmen of the entire range territory will meet in Denver for the annual discussion of the many problems confronting the industry under conditions which are very difficult to appraise. On the credit side is the fact that cattle prices generally have been remunerative, and it is gratifying to the western producer to know that during the past year the same has been true in the Corn Belt and that the feeders who bought western stock during the past year have in most instances been enabled to send them on the market at a profit. On the debit side must be listed droughty conditions of considerable severity in many widespread areas in the range cattle country, plus the fact that the world is at war, that there is increasing production of hogs, that imports of cattle and cattle products have sharply increased, and that there is no certainty as to when the end will be in tariff reductions under Secretary Hull's destructive reciprocal trade policy. The saving factor in this situation has been relatively light domestic slaughter, plus an abundance of feed at reasonable prices in the major Corn Belt area. This has created a keen demand for both stocker and feeder cattle and has enabled stockmen even in drought areas to adopt a conservative policy, marketing heavily on merchantable stock and protecting the breeding herds with importations of concentrates.

How long this situation can continue

and what the future holds for the industry is anybody's guess. The Department of Agriculture recently predicted that cattle and calf slaughter in 1940 would be somewhat smaller even than in 1939, while an earlier release called attention to the fact that an increase in cattle numbers on farms and ranches of at least 1,000,000 head was to be expected January 1.

Just what can be done to safeguard the interests of the live-stock industry under these unsatisfactory conditions will be one of the leading problems before the convention, and probably most prominent of all in the discussion from this standpoint will be the question of the whole reciprocal trade policy. The recent announcement of intention to negotiate trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay, with tariff reductions proposed on canned beef, preserved beef, and almost every by-product of the cattle industry, has served to arouse widespread resentment and has renewed the demand for adequate protection for the domestic cattle producer. The importation of more than 13,000,000 pounds of canned beef in September alone clearly shows that the proposal to reduce the tariff on that product is simply suicidal, and it is expected that the convention will voice a strong demand for an increase in the rate on this product, now entirely out of line with the rate of dressed beef.

In this connection, the convention undoubtedly will review the circumstances surrounding the purchase last summer of 48,000 pounds of Argentine canned beef for the United States Navy and endorse the efforts of Senator O'Mahoney, of Wyoming, Congressman Scrugham, of Nevada, and others in securing an amendment to the Naval Appropriation Bill requiring that such purchases in the future must be of American product. From the standpoint of the live-stock industry, realizing that 48,000 pounds of canned beef is merely a drop in the bucket, the significant thing is the fact now clearly established that the purpose of this move was to pave the way for ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention in order to permit imports into this country of Argentine dressed beef and dressed mutton. In view of the situation that exists in Europe today, where in some countries both meat and milk supplies have been seriously interfered with by the ravages of foot-and-mouth disease, the convention can do no less than strongly reiterate its demands for the continuation of the present embargo against the importation of live-stock or live-stock products capable of carrying foot-and-mouth disease from any country where that disease exists.

Careful consideration will be given to the present status of the Bang's disease program. The association has consistently opposed efforts to establish area work with the blood-testing method in the range cattle country, because this type of work inevitably leads to com-

pulsory eradication. It is the consensus of practically all who have closely followed recent developments in the matter that the present situation does not justify any such program and that no steps should be taken in this direction until the Bureau of Animal Industry has given a full report on the progress being made with the experimental work for controlling the disease through the calf vaccination method. Until this report is forthcoming, reasonable control of both federal and state appropriations for Bang's disease work should suffice to prevent the range cattle country from being high-pressured into an ill-advised compulsory control program.

Consideration will be given to the general financial and economic situation of the country. It is realized that no government can continue year after year without end to spend more than its income regardless of how worthy the cause. Our interest lies particularly in the direction of the appropriations for the AAA. For the past two years these appropriations have exceeded by some hundreds of millions of dollars the amounts specified by the President in his budget recommendations. When this fact is considered in connection with the oft-repeated statement by Secretary Wallace that he favors processing taxes upon the products to be benefited for the support of AAA programs, it becomes apparent that there is still danger that an effort will be made to impose processing taxes for the continuation of the corn and live-stock programs. Stockmen have repeatedly expressed themselves by resolutions as preferring no range program or any other type of program for the live-stock industry if it must be financed by a processing tax on live stock or live-stock products, and the convention undoubtedly will reiterate its stand on this matter.

During the convention our traffic counsel, Charles E. Blaine, will report to the Executive Committee on the progress of his department during the past year. His major activity has been in connection with the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate case, hearings on which were held a year ago, while the oral argument before the full Interstate Commerce Commission was held in November last. A decision should soon be forthcoming. It is needless to say that Mr. Blaine has made every effort to preserve for the industry the beneficial 85 per cent rate without the restrictions which the railroads are attempting to impose, which in our opinion will largely nullify the effectiveness of the rate.

A report will be received as to the progress being made under the new beef grades which were adopted on July 1. At that time the packers indicated that it was their intention fully to cooperate with the live-stock industry in putting this uniform system of grading into effective use. It is recognized that this system is only an intermediate

step toward a final solution of the matter, and the degree of packer co-operation will determine the next step on the part of the producers. If they are wholeheartedly co-operating, then we can well afford to await developments. If they are not, then the sooner we proceed in the matter the better it will be for the industry. Attention might be called to the fact that just recently an Ohio packer was cited for alleged fraudulent use of the government grade stamp. No better proof could be given that even those who for reasons of their own do not wish to comply with the beef-grading program recognize the consumer interest in the same.

Careful consideration will be given to the new conditions confronting users of public land and forest ranges by reason of the reported plan to consolidate all such activities in one bureau under the reorganization authority granted the President a year ago. Whatever may develop in this connection, it would seem essential that some further amendments to existing law are necessary in order adequately to protect the interests of all types of users of these public lands.

We urge all stockmen to attend this important gathering. At San Francisco last February we offered the convention one of the finest programs ever made available. It is our hope this year to come as near as possible to duplicating that program in quality and in the variety of subjects considered. A recent statement indicates that only 13 per cent of the laboring men of this country belong to labor unions, yet it is recognized that the voice of labor in Washington is one of the most powerful heard there. Our association is just as strong as you make it. Don't stay home and criticize. Instead, come and participate in formulating the policy to guide us for the coming year.

We also urge stockmen to be on hand bright and early the first day. In the forenoon the Executive committee will meet. Immediately after lunch the regular convention program will start. And, in the evening, two entertainment features await the delegates—a ladies' dinner and a men's smoker. The regular banquet will be held on the night of the 13th. Other entertainment will be provided for those attending the meetings at various times during the three-day sessions.

The convention will end on the day that the National Western Stock Show opens. We therefore ask stockmen that in making reservations they specify to the hotel the date they intend to check out as well as the date of arrival. The two events—convention and stock show—will bring many stockmen to Denver, and hotels will need to know departure dates in order to take care of stock show reservations.

Convention headquarters will be at the Shirley-Savoy. Rates there are: Single room—without bath, \$2; on court, with

bath, \$2.50; outside, with bath, \$3-\$3.50; double—without bath, \$3.50; on court, with bath, \$4; outside, with bath, \$5-\$6; two rooms (bedroom and parlor), \$8-\$10; two connecting rooms (four persons), bath between, \$7-\$10. Make your reservation now.

PERPETUATING SUBSIDIES

THE DRIVE FOR THE OPENING of the American market to the products of any foreign nation, staged by Secretary Hull and his free trade zealots, gains fresh impetus with plans for trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay, with concessions on our side limited almost entirely to agricultural products competitive with those produced here in the United States.

The full significance of this destructive policy is just becoming apparent to Americans generally, and with this recognition there has come a wave of resentment, swelling as it rolls along, until finally it voiced itself in Washington as some fifty senators and representatives appeared at the hearing on the Argentine trade agreement before the Committee for Reciprocity Information and demanded that a halt be called to the sacrifice being made of American agriculture.

Unless the present policy is checked, it would seem that American agricultural producers must resign themselves to a submerged status, dependent upon the government for a subsidy which, added to low prevailing prices for farm products, will enable them to exist. Such a status is not acceptable to the rank and file of American producers. Traditionally independent, they do not relish the prospect of being thus subordinated to the foreign producer, all for the purpose of selling abroad a few more automobiles, radios, and refrigerators. They figure that their own use of such products will far exceed any possible foreign demand, if only the American market is reserved for them to the full extent of their ability to supply it. As one northern Colorado farmer expressed it:

"We don't want to be forced on the dole in order to be able to live. Shut out the imports of canned beef (13,000,000 pounds, plus, in September alone), let us produce our own beef and our own sugar, feed our own corn, and put the idle acres back to useful production."

It must be recognized that the AAA through production control alone has not been able to maintain satisfactory farm prices. During the past two years increasing amounts have been made available which, added to the original "benefit" payments, are supposed to bring the total amount received somewhere near a "parity" price.

How long will an intelligent nation allow such an absurd situation to continue? How long will it allow one man, a lifelong free trader and unable to rec-

ognize that times have changed and that free trade will no longer suffice for even his own beloved Southland, to determine the destinies of the millions of farm and ranch families and reduce them to a status of dependency upon government aid in order to exercise his misguided trade theories?

Not for long, according to the senators and representatives who appeared at the hearing and to many other members of Congress who have since then expressed their opinions in unmistakable fashion. One man, no matter who, no matter how sincere and conscientious, cannot long retain such arbitrary power in a democracy. Congress was given the power to set the tariff rates by the Constitution. Surrendering that power temporarily in the stress of a great emergency, it is preparing to take it back, and once more the representatives of the people, and directly responsible to them, will determine the measure of protection to be accorded American producers. That is the way it should be. It is the American way.

RECIPROCAL TRADE POLICY

THE RECIPROCAL TRADE POLICY is finally due for a change. It will either be revised to give agriculture a breathing spell, or it will be done away with entirely. This conclusion, we believe, can be drawn from what happened at the hearings on the important Argentine trade proposal in Washington in October and from what many men have said since then. More than two score congressmen and a score of other witnesses testified in Washington against the treaty.

The reciprocal trade policy for five years has been to cut away the protection that agriculture has to have against low-cost producing countries. Proponents of the policy justify this by referring you to the foreign concessions received. But the concessions have been almost entirely to American non-agricultural industry. This is the policy that has been followed in the past five years. It is what is being proposed in the Argentine treaty.

In the Argentine proposal, however, the policy stands out more boldly than in any previous pact. Argentina is a farm and cattle country. To make a deal with it, United States is asked to accept agricultural imports, and agriculture, particularly live stock, would be hit hard. The threat is real enough now to stir strong opposition by those interested in agriculture. It is real enough to have dissipated what political significance it may have had. Party lines and political beliefs played little part in the testimony at the Washington hearing, as the roll of defense witnesses shows:

Senators: Adams and Johnson, of Colorado; Capper and Reed, of Kansas; Burke, of Nebraska; McCarran, of

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Nevada; Hatch, of New Mexico; Frazier, of North Dakota; Taft, of Ohio; Gurney, of South Dakota; Connally, of Texas; Byrd, of Virginia; Schwellenbach, of Washington; and O'Mahoney, of Wyoming.

Representatives: Murdock, of Arizona; Anderson and Gearhart, of California; Dworshak, of Idaho; LeCompte, Gilchrist, and Jensen, of Iowa; Carlson, and Hope, of Kansas; Crawford and Hook, of Michigan; Andresen, of Minnesota; O'Connor, of Montana; Curtis and Coffee, of Nebraska; Dempsey, of New Mexico; Burdick and Lemke, of North Dakota; Lewis and Clevenger, of Ohio; Monroney, of Oklahoma; Angell, Mott, and Pierce, of Oregon; Gossett, West, and Kleberg, of Texas; Robertson, of Virginia; Gehrmann, Hawks, and Hull, of Wisconsin; and Horton, of Wyoming.

Reporting on the hearing, Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association, an important opposition witness, said:

"They regarded the proposed agreement as a test of the real policy to be followed under the reciprocal trade act and warned the committee that they believed Congress would not continue next June the power to make these agreements unless safeguarded with a provision requiring Senate ratification."

TAYLOR ACT FEE SUIT

NEVADA STOCKMEN RECENTLY were aroused to deep resentment when informed that those who are parties to the suit over fees now being charged for temporary and revocable licenses under the Taylor Grazing Act would be subjected to criminal prosecution for trespass unless their live stock was removed from the public domain within ten days.

It should be understood that the suit in question does not challenge the right to collect a grazing fee under the Taylor Grazing Act. It merely goes to the point that at present the fee is not being collected in accordance with the law. Section 3 of the act specifically authorizes the issuance of grazing permits and the collection of a fee in connection therewith, which fee the litigants would gladly pay. But term permits, renewable under the conditions imposed in Section 3, are not being issued. Instead, under the general powers granted in Section 2 of the act, temporary licenses are issued, revocable at will, and the suit in question challenges the authority to collect a fee in connection therewith.

Only the courts can finally determine the full power granted to the secretary under the act. There would seem to be no valid reason why recourse should not be taken to the courts in the case of an important issue not clearly defined. In this case ample time has elapsed to determine the issue. The case has been in court for several years. The numerous delays have been due almost wholly to

the tactics of federal counsel. It would seem that it should promptly be determined upon its merits without an effort being made in the meantime to intimidate the litigants by threatening criminal action.

CONSOLIDATION

WILL THE PRESIDENT SUBMIT to Congress early next year, as intimated in his reorganization order number two, a third order dealing with the grazing use of public lands, now scattered among at least four and perhaps more government bureaus? And in the event he does, what will be the nature of it, and will Congress permit it to go into effect by failing to reject it in the sixty-day period allotted by the reorganization act?

The argument waxes hot and rumors fly thick and fast. Many of them may be in the nature of propaganda, set in motion by wishful thinkers. Through it all, strange to say, little is heard about the method of regulation—what rules shall be enforced and whether changes in basic law are necessary to insure stability of operation. Instead, the debate centers on the question of whether the administrative bureau shall be located in the Department of Agriculture or in the Department of the Interior.

To the PRODUCER it has seemed that this was to a large extent putting the cart before the horse. With the Taylor act for guidance, it would seem to make little difference where the administrative

agency in charge of the public domain is located. If the grazing use of forest reserves can be similarly stipulated in basic law, as suggested recently in a resolution passed by the executive committee of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, and if advisory boards can be provided for in such law, as was recently done in an amendment to the Taylor Grazing Act, then forest permits will likewise be in a more stable position, regardless of the point of control.

Many stockmen have expressed themselves recently as believing that, whether we like it or not, eventually there must be in the interest of economy and simplicity a consolidation of these various agencies, all dealing with a common problem. Otherwise in time the Taylor administration and the Farm Security Administration (handling marginal lands purchased by the Resettlement Administration) will undoubtedly duplicate the far-flung research activities of the present Forest Service.

If an order is forthcoming—and many believe it is already prepared—there is little likelihood of its being rejected by Congress, although the effort doubtless will be made. In any event, it would seem that live-stock organizations can do more constructive good by applying themselves to perfecting the rules under which the game must be played in the future than by engaging in a dog fight between rival administrative agencies, with a good chance of gaining in return for their efforts only the ill will of one or both of the main contestants.



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TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHAS. E. BLAINE

THE NEBRASKA STATE RAILWAY Commission, upon informal complaint filed by the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers' Association, required the railroads within the state to cancel the subsequent reshipment by rail provision as a prerequisite to the rates on stocker and feeder live stock in its order of September 25, 1939, effective the following day.

Following the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the *Matador Land and Cattle Co. v. Atchison, T. & S. F. Ry. Co.*, 231 I.C.C. 566 and related cases, which were filed and prosecuted by the National and Texas live-stock organizations, in which the commission condemned the subsequent rail haul requirement and ordered it stricken from the tariffs, the national organizations filed informal complaint with the Nebraska State Railway Commission about April 9, 1939. Therein it was pointed out that the condemned rule had been canceled from all the tariffs throughout the nation except those governing intrastate traffic in Nebraska.

The commission of that state referred the matter to the railroads therein on April 26, 1939, under its *Docket No. 8717*. Thereupon the railroads filed their Application No. 13765 to cancel the rule complained of. Said application was approved by the Nebraska State Railway Commission September 25, 1939.

Broadens Yards Investigation

In *Docket Ex Parte 127—Status of Public Stockyards Companies*, the Interstate Commerce Commission has issued an order broadening the scope of the investigation initiated by it on July 11, 1938, according to *Interstate Commerce Commission Practitioners' Journal*.

Under the provisions of the order, the commission will enter upon an investigation into and concerning the status of public stockyard companies "hereinafter named as common carriers by railroad subject to the Interstate Commerce Act, in respect to the transportation services performed at said stockyards in connection with the unloading and loading of carload shipments of live stock transported by railroad in interstate commerce to and from the public yards of said stockyard companies, said investigation to include a full inquiry into:

"1. The relation, direct or indirect, between any of said stockyard companies

or their officials and (a) common carriers by railroads and (b) any person, firm, or corporation receiving at or shipping from said stockyards live stock transported by railroad in interstate commerce to and from said stockyards.

"2. The management or operation of said stockyard companies by common carriers by railroad or by officials, employees, or subsidiary or affiliated companies of common carriers by railroad and the management or operation of common carriers by railroads by said stockyard companies or by officials, employees, or subsidiary or affiliated companies of said stockyard companies.

"3. Operating practices in connection with the transportation services performed by said stockyard companies.

"4. Whether said stockyard companies are common carriers by railroad subject to the provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act in respect to the transportation services performed by them or are violating any provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act."

California and Nevada Rates

The Interstate Commerce Commission in early November suspended certain interstate rates on live stock from various points in California and Nevada, on the one hand, and various other points in California, on the other. This was in response to petition by John Curry, of the California Cattlemen's Association, and Chas. E. Blaine.

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WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

THE NUMBER OF GRAZING DISTRICTS organized and placed under regulation of the Department of the Interior was increased by one during the year, making a total of fifty, according to Director of Grazing Richard H. Rutledge. Grazing licenses and permits were issued 19,342 stockmen owning 11,032,642 head of live stock. Twenty-eight co-operative grazing associations, operating under Montana law, were issued licenses to graze 240,000 live stock in that state under co-operative arrangements. Range improvements in ten western states included construction of sixty bridges, 731 miles of fence, 101 cattle guards, thirty-four corrals, 1,285 miles of truck trail, 493 miles of stock trail, 899 check dams and other flood-control structures; water development including fifty-four reservoirs, ninety springs, and thirty-five wells; eradication of poisonous plants from 47,311 acres and rodents from 1,443,466 acres; reseeding of depleted range areas along with carrying capacity surveys on 10,000,000 acres. Other accomplishments listed were installations of short wave radio sets for fast communication, airplanes for wild-life surveys, wild horse round-ups and photographic mappings, appointments of wild-life representatives on advisory boards, and fencing and improving the important Magdalena stock driveway in New Mexico.

NEUTRALITY ACT

Immediately after signing the neutrality bill, the President issued proclamations (1) announcing existence of state of war; (2) prohibiting submarines from United States territorial waters; (3) barring American ships, aircraft, and citizens from belligerent waters. Under the law, for exportation of "arms, ammunition, and implements of war" a permit must be secured. No American ship nor United States citizen passenger thereon, except for Red Cross aid, is allowed to travel to a port in a combat zone proclaimed by the President. Purchases of goods on behalf of a nation at war must be made on a strictly cash basis and transfer of title thereto must actually take place before permission to export is given. No such restrictions, however, have been imposed on private transactions, except as to arms, ammunition, and implements of war. Combat area in Europe takes in part of Spain, United Kingdom and Ireland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway below 62 degrees north latitude, Germany, and Baltic countries. Vessels may carry general cargo to Southern parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia ("west of 66 degrees west longitude") and to British Columbia; to British and French possessions in the West

Indies, Central America, and South America; and "to any port on the Pacific or Indian Oceans, including the China Sea, the Tasman Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea." No change in normal transportation by rail, lake, or air to Canada was authorized in the act.

MORE CONSERVATION NEEDED

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace told the Association of Land Grant Colleges in a recent address that the nation cannot continue to squander its land and forest resources and remain a great nation. Present programs are only a start in the right direction, he said. He disclosed that farm administration officials are preparing proposed new legislation and revising present programs to encourage additional conservation of land and timber. New legislation may be offered Congress next session.

BIGGEST HORSE ROUND-UP

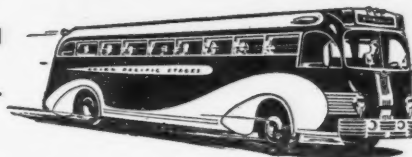
A horse round-up, one of the largest in the history of the Southwest, has been completed over the vast country of the Navajo Indians, the Office of Indian

Affairs reports. The removal is the result of a long campaign to bring conservation through diminishing the grazing load on badly eroded Navajo lands. Most of the horses sold were of no particular use to their owners, but horses do have a high prestige value to the Indians, says the Indian Service. "For a century and a half the social position of an aspiring young Navajo aiming to get ahead in life and to raise himself in the esteem of his fellow tribesmen depended largely upon his success in accumulating the largest possible number of horses. Therefore, the task of persuading the average Navajo to sell his surplus horses and make the scarce grass on the range available for his sheep was a difficult one."

TO STUDY AGRICULTURE

In late October Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, Republican leader in the House of Representatives, announced appointment of a committee to make a study of agricultural problems. "The administration's farm policy is now a demonstrated failure," Representative Martin said, "and the first prerequisite to an intelligent effort to solve the problems confronting American agriculture is a careful study of each problem and its relation to the others." The study will cover dairying, live stock, wheat, corn, conservation,

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UNION PACIFIC STAGES INTERSTATE TRANSIT LINES

trade treaties, and a dozen other phases of agriculture. A subcommittee of the Republican Special Committee to Study Agricultural Problems named November 8 is composed of Frank O. Horton, Wyoming; Leo E. Allen, Illinois; Edward H. Rees, Kansas; Francis H. Case, South Dakota; George W. Gillie, Indiana; Ben F. Jensen, Iowa; and George H. Heinke, Nebraska. It will hold several conferences in the West.

COTTON LOAN

The Department of Agriculture has announced that it will make loans available to growers on this year's cotton crop at a base rate of 8.3 cents per pound on seven-eighths inch middlings. The program provides allowances for location differentials. Announcement of the new loan program came at a time when about 10,100,000 bales of surplus cotton from previous crops were stored under government loan programs. . . . Near-record consumption of cotton by American mills during the past three months has raised grower hopes that a sizeable dent will be made this season in the nation's large surplus, press dispatches disclose.

NUTRITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT

A research project designed to discover ways of increasing the nutritional value of foodstuffs produced on American farms through studies of soil and crop management, soil types, and plant and animal nutrition has been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with several research agencies. The investigations will center at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, but they will extend throughout the United States. Co-operation of other bureaus and state agricultural experiment stations and other research agencies is expected.

FOOD FOR INDIANS

Twenty-five thousand dollars for food purchase was made available to the Navajo Indian superintendent as Navajo, Hopi, and other Pueblo Indians of New Mexico and Arizona faced recent acute shortage resulting from serious drought. Failure of crops, in some cases 100 per cent loss, had jeopardized the Indians and the lives of their cattle and sheep. Besides the Southwest, the areas most seriously affected were Montana, North and South Dakota, and one reservation each in Oregon and Nebraska. Emergency allocations totaling \$143,000 have gone to other Indian reservations.

LIVE STOCK INSURANCE

Many borrowers of the Farm Security Administration are protecting themselves against death of their live stock by insurance through replacement associations. These non-profit co-operatives

replace at small cost a farmer's live stock in case of death. The plan is of special benefit to small farmers. Members pay 4½ per cent of the appraised value of the animal as premium each year. If the animal dies or is killed, the farmer will be paid 80 per cent of its appraised value. At the close of the year after losses and operation expenses are deducted, the balance is returned to the members of the association as refunds. There are about 19,000 policies in Mississippi, and an Arkansas association has just been formed.

CORN ALLOTMENT

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has planned a 1940 corn program calling for an acreage reduction in twelve states averaging approximately 10 per cent. The reductions—from 5 to 15 per cent—would be heaviest in the states west of the Mississippi River. Expected allotment: 37,000,000 acres. . . . Corn loan rate. 1939: 57 cents.

RECIPROCITY WITH URUGUAY

The Department of State has announced its intention to negotiate a trade agreement with Uruguay. The list of products on which the United States will consider granting concessions is along much the same line as that in the proposals with Argentina. Testimony given in the Argentine pact will apply to the Uruguay proposal.

TWENTY-SECOND PACT SIGNED

A trade pact between the United States and Venezuela has been announced by the Department of State. The agreement provides for a 50 per cent reduction in the petroleum and oil tax—from ½ cent to ¼ cent a gallon. Concessions obtained by the United States include tariff reductions on wheat flour, oatmeal, prepared milks, hog lard, lumber, iron and steel products, automotive products and accessories, radios, refrigerators, engines, pharmaceutical products and paints. The pact brings to twenty-two the total number of agreements reached, to twenty the number of countries with which the accords are in effect, and to 60 per cent the portion of United States trade now covered by trade agreements.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES 1940 LIVE STOCK OUTLOOK

SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND calves in 1940 is expected to be somewhat smaller than in 1939, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Steer slaughter probably will change little, but marketing of breeding stock in the West, where numbers have been sharply curtailed since 1934, is expected to be reduced if feed and range

conditions are near average next year.

Cattle numbers are expected to be about 2,000,000 head larger next January 1 than a year earlier. Most of the increase during 1939 has taken place in states east of the Missouri River.

Even if cattle slaughter in 1940 should be no smaller than in 1939, a further increase in numbers is likely, particularly in the West, if feed conditions show marked improvement. With a reduction in slaughter, the increase probably would be marked, and although numbers on January 1, 1941, would still be below the 1934 peak, they probably would be among the five largest on record.

Marketings of fed cattle during the late winter and early spring in 1940 are likely to be larger than in 1939. But marketings in summer and fall next year may not be greatly different from marketings this year.

Prices may average slightly higher in 1940 than in 1939. Domestic meat demand is expected to be stronger and total live weight marketed slightly less than in 1939. High prices for hides also are expected. Total meat supplies in 1940 will be larger than in 1939, chiefly because of increase in hog marketings in prospect.

Sheep

The number of stock sheep on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1940 probably will not be much different from the number at the beginning of 1939. The trend in the next few years may be moderately upward, especially if range conditions in the western sheep states are favorable. In the native states and Texas the number of stock sheep on January 1, 1940, may be the largest for recent years, and some further increase in these two regions may occur after 1939.

Prices of lambs in the 1939-40 fed-lamb marketing season may average higher than in the 1938-39 season. Slaughter supplies are expected to be somewhat larger. But effects of the increase in supplies upon prices will be offset or more than offset by improvement in consumer demand for meats and by higher prices for wool obtained from slaughter lambs.

Hogs

Consumer demand for hog products will be stronger than in 1938-39. Stronger foreign demand for pork and lard in 1939-40 also is in prospect.

But effects on hog prices of the improvement in demand probably will be offset largely if not wholly by increase in supplies of hogs for slaughter. Indications are that prices will average lower than a year earlier in the first half of the 1939-40 marketing year and higher in the latter half.

Number of hogs slaughtered under federal inspection in the present hog-marketing year probably will be about

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

20 per cent greater than in 1938-39. A further increase in number of pigs raised is expected in 1940.

Horses and Mules

The probability of increased tractor competition, declining prices for horses, inroads of disease in some sections plus old-age toll, and a decreased colt crop all point to a further decrease in the number of horses on farms.

Exports of horses at present are too small to be a factor in reducing numbers. But a prolonged war in Europe might create some export demand.

FEDERAL FORECAST SHOWS MORE CATTLE ON FEED

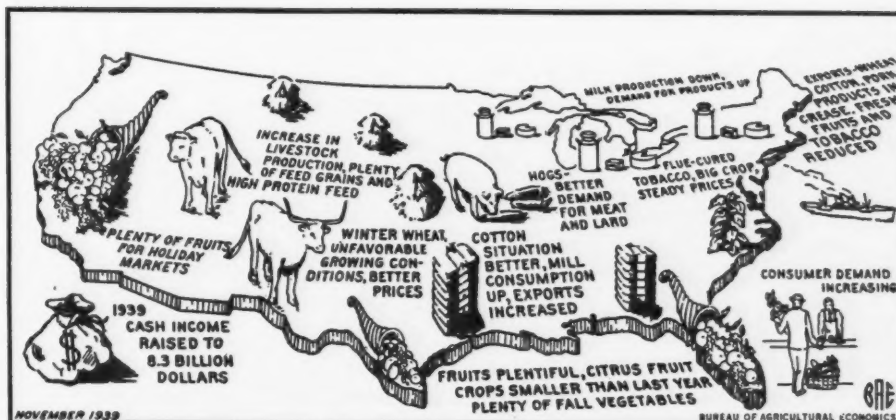
ANNOUNCING THE JULY-OCTOBER market inspected movement of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt as 16 per cent larger than last year, the Agricultural Marketing Service on November 1 raised its previous estimate of increased numbers on feed for the winter and spring. For the West the previously indicated decrease was revised to read "smaller decrease."

It is probable that the total shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into Corn Belt states during the four months, both through stock yards and direct, was the largest in past fifteen years. Probably in only three or four years in the past twenty has the cost been larger than this year.

Reports for the West indicate that cattle feeding will be decreased in six of the states, while in the other five little change or some increase seemed probable. In Texas, feeding at oil mills may be rather sharply curtailed, but this will be offset by increased operations elsewhere. Shipments from stock yards into the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area July to September were somewhat smaller this year than last.

Shipments of heavy feeder steers—over 900 pounds—continued to show the largest relative increase over last year of all kinds of stocker and feeder cattle. The number of feeder calves and cows and heifers also showed relatively large increases.

The number of lambs fed during the 1939-40 feeding season will be larger than in 1938-39, but the number in feed-lots on January 1, 1940, may be no larger than on that date last year, the government experts say. Though total shipments of feeder lambs into the Corn Belt will be larger, the increase came early—in July, August, and the first half of September. The in-shipments for the remainder of the year will be much smaller. If marketings of fed lambs in November and December reflect the early in-movement of feeders, the number remaining in feed-lots at the end of the year may be little larger than a year earlier. The number on feed in the western states on January 1, 1940, will be smaller than a year earlier.



Meat, too, must be sold

STOCKMEN are learning that meat and meat products cannot be taken for granted on the menu. Competing foods that are widely advertised are more frequently seen on the American table. Less advertised foods are pushed into the background.

Live-stock producers have a responsibility to themselves and to the country as a whole. Our agricultural economy demands that consumers do not go vegetarian.

National Live Stock Marketing Association

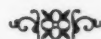
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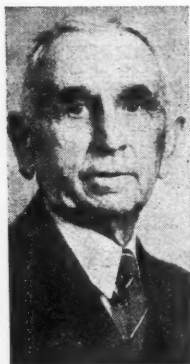
MEAT BOARD CAMPAIGN

CHECKING UP ON ITS FALL cooking school campaign recently, the National Live Stock and Meat Board found that four-day sessions had been held in nineteen cities, reaching 125,000 homemakers with instructions in selection and preparation of meat and facts concerning the high food value of meat.

The program, one of many activities of the board, was inaugurated in January, 1933. Since that time the board has conducted schools of meat cookery in 193 cities in forty-one states. An interest-creating feature this fall is a meat questions and answers contest.

DEATH OF JOHN B. GARAT

JOHAN B. GARAT, SR., ELKO County, Nevada, pioneer, who retired from active ranching March 1 last, died in San Francisco, August 17. News of his death has heretofore failed to reach the PRODUCER.



Born in California, in 1859, Mr. Garat devoted many of his finest years to the development of ranching property in Elko county, which represented the Garat holdings and which is now owned and operated by the Petan Land and Live Stock Company.

In 1871 he aided in driving a herd of cattle from the San Joaquin Valley in California, due to influx of settlers in that region. A full year was required to reach the Humboldt River east of Lovelock, Nevada, where the cattle were wintered. The next spring the cattle were moved into the big range stretched north and east of Golconda.

When the Garat business was sold on March 1 it brought a price of \$850,000. The sale included the live stock and approximately 75,000 acres of ranch and range lands, holdings which had been built up through the years by Mr. Garat's father, himself, and his sons in their turn.

His sons, George W., Henry S., and John B. Jr., survive him.

John Ernest Brock Killed

John Ernest Brock, twenty-eight, son of J. Elmer Brock, first vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association and former president of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, was killed October 28 by the accidental discharge of his gun while hunting on the Brock Ranch near Kaycee, Wyoming. He was employed in the Forest Service in Idaho and had been spending a short vacation with his parents.

OVERWEIGHT STEERS LOADED WITH DYNAMITE

BY JAMES E. POOLE



WHEN H. L. MENKEN PREPARES the ensuing edition of "American Language" he cannot consistently ignore a new, if somewhat sulphurous, argot evolved by this season's profanity-provoking fat-cattle market—the weight phase of it. If persistency is a virtue, a large section of the beef-making cult possesses it in the superlative degree. The argot referred to, as novel as expressive, enunciates the sentiments of victims of their own folly. Adequately warned that the overweight steer is loaded with dynamite, they continue the manufacture of explosive bombs, to be hoisted by their own torpedoes. Argument and remonstrance flowing from educational sources for more than a decade prove futile. Whenever cheap corn and a high market for weight the previous season put a luscious bait on the hook, a certain element, not all neophytes, swallow it, line and sinker. And the resultant long-drawn howl of protest churns the murky market atmosphere.

In such periodical emergencies salesmen are driven to potent drink, also desperation, while persuading processors to take title to the property at values capable of averting bankruptcy among beef-makers. Plant operators forced to temporize machinery for handling monster carcasses and consumers balking at huge steaks and roasts join the anvil chorus. Only an army of boners exults, as this condition puts boners' names numerous on the pay roll. Oversized carcasses must be "broken up"—a shrinky, costly process. Customers flatly refuse to take huge bones off their side of the retailer's counter at beef prices, and when bones go into the barrel they net little to the processor. When housewives refuse to buy that part of the carcass at prices ranging from 40 to 60 cents per pound their negative is emphatic. They use the word "no" in a tone that suppresses further argument even when couched in the persuasive, adroit language of supersalesmanship. All this may have an Einsteinian flavor, especially to a layman. In everyday

MARKETS

vernacular, it means that the public is definitely "off" heavy beef, or any considerable quantity of that passe product. The "big brute" is a trade anachronism. It should be as extinct as the dinosaur or the dodo. Yet cattle feeders, deceived by fitful demand, persist in abortive attempts to restandardize a type that should have been consigned to the storehouse of the past long ago.

Financial Suicide

Ever and anon the big steer takes possession of the premium paid for scarcity, regardless of what that may happen to be at the moment; but this premium implies merit, quality, and condition in combination. Carrying plain or rough cattle into weight is merely flirting with financial suicide—extending an invitation to the sheriff to take possession of the premises. If computation of the wealth destroyed by long-feeding heavy steers during the past twenty years, or since the late Jim Brown, Armour's head cattle buyer for many years, switched the International carlot championship from the bulky two-year-old class to featherweight yearlings, could be computed the aggregate would be adequate to capitalize a chain of national banks. The habit persists. When it dies, it will die hard and probably come back as does the feline mentioned in a once popular song.

This does not mean that New York cannot absorb a modicum of prime heavy beef or that Boston has eschewed that gastronomic habit, but each succeeding year a smaller poundage suffices. New York is koshering 900- to 1,050-pound yearlings; Boston-weight bullocks, which The Hub formerly took by the thousand each week, are at the verboten stage. All things change. So does beef demand. Consumers are not necessarily capricious. They have merely forged new and permanent standards.

Deadline 1,100 Pounds

Defying contradiction, this writer makes the statement that if never another steer over 1,200 pounds trundled out of a feed-lot on the final stage of its pilgrimage to the poleax no hardship would be inflicted on any arm of the industry. Let the diminishing phalanx of beef-eaters with a penchant for weight take less of it. Under present conditions a 1,200-pound steer is good enough for any trade. The current deadline is 1,100 pounds, and it is as indelible as Cain's beard. Of course, it may wobble at intervals, but demarcation is definite. Killers can advantageously use fifty yearling steers or heifers weighing 700 to 1,000 pounds where half a dozen "big dogs" create a glut. Handwriting on the market wall is legible; those who run may read.

And the same thing goes for fat-back hogs and 100-pound lambs, styles on which have also changed. All hands

and the cook insist on lightweight cuts and pay a premium for them. Otherwise the story of current market conditions would be different. A 270-pound hog should mark the weight limit; 98 pounds of lamb on the hoof is an abundant sufficiency. Ignoring these hard facts is tantamount to gambling with loaded dice. It "can't be did." When Henry Ford casually remarked that "the wrong thing would never work" he said a mouthful, and a thousand-word yarn would not fully enumerate the "wrong things" beef-making bucks. Lucullan feasts no longer display such joints as formerly graced Lord Mayor of London inaugural dinners, and never will again. A stronger possibility is that roast canary tongues will figure in the entree list.

This is not intended as a philippic. It is, rather, a constructive admonition. If it is wrong, send me a postal card to that effect.

"Nuff Said"

When a load of 1,932-pound steers, smooth as eggs and, barring weight, fit for a show-yard, sells at \$8.50, a similar load weighing 1,420 pounds at \$10, and a load of 1,060-pound yearlings at \$11.40—all of which happened on the Chicago market one day at mid-November—no further argument on the subject is needed. The case is ready for submission to the jury and but one decision is possible. These prices are "tops" for the weight, implying superlative quality, as tens of thousands of plain big bullocks weighing anywhere from 1,300 to 1,600 pounds have gone over the scales in a range of \$8.75 to \$9.50 per cwt., the great majority whitefaces. The 1,932-pound load, four-year-olds, costing \$6 as yearlings, was roughed on grass and cheap feed until last May, making cheap gains—three pounds per diem. Surprisingly cheap corn and growth on roughage enabled them to show a profit. It was the heaviest load of bullocks on any market this year; probably the heaviest load in the country. The feeder had a goal: to determine how far they could be carried without developing patches. The outcome speaks eloquently for the constructive American breeder. Their feed-lot was a Mecca, some 5,000 visitors within a radius of 300 miles of Dewitt, Illinois, visualizing the novelty. The feeder overlooked a bet by not charging 10 cents per capita.

A majority of these overdone steers figured in black ink. With a higher feed bill this would have been impossible, but costlier corn would have handicapped production. A trade axiom is that making weighty steers is profitably possible only when corn costs \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel, which was the drought sequence of 1936.

Yearlings Scarce

Yearlings, both steers and heifers, have been as scarce all through the season as weight was superabundant, and they brought home the bacon, so

to speak. Similarly, killers wrestled with scarcity of lower cost light steers for which a short supply of western grassers was responsible. Mean little southern "yellow hammers," "heretics," and "bowwows" enjoyed continuous popularity, reflecting abnormal demand for low-grade beef.

At this writing every type, grade, and weight has a market peculiarly its own. A crooked light steer costing \$7 to \$7.50 is as popular as a prime yearling valued at \$10.75 to \$11.25. Choice heifers are worth \$10.50; 80- to 100-day-feds, \$9.50 to \$10—an absurdly narrow spread, but vendors of heifer beef have no alternative but resort to substitution, getting entangled in a daily scramble to replenish meat-rails and appease clamorous retailers. Mixed loads of fat steers and heifers, half and half, realize \$10.75 to \$11, and, emulating Dickens' creation, "Oliver Twist," killers constantly clamor for more.

The foregoing tells the cattle story recently and currently. Cow trade languishes, except when buyers get access to canners and cutters, at \$4 to \$5.25; border-line cows at \$5.50 to \$5.75; and beef cows as high as \$8. Middle grades—dairies—are hardest to sell. Western grass cows are practically all in; dairy-men are at the inception of their annual culling process, for which killers are waiting with whetted stilettos. Following the early winter clean-up, cows will realize more money, although feeding females is no longer popular.

Hogs and Lambs

A recently wide gap in hog prices has closed up in seasonal manner. November found 90 per cent of each day's supply selling in a narrow range of 10 to 15 cents per cwt.; underweights at the top. This about covers swine trade, the future being hazy.

Lamb and yearling feeders are doing reasonably well. A \$9 to \$9.50 lamb market does not need the services of an expert apologist, with an enormous turkey tonnage on a bargain counter, and competition between poultry and ovine product is always keen to the distinct advantage of the former when the price is in its favor. Yearlings are worth anywhere from \$6 to \$8, the majority fed Texans, and the price being determined largely by the wool they have acquired since shorn.

The serial market story will be continued in our next.

PROSPECTS

FAT-CATTLE TRADE IS IN MUCH the same condition as a predatory Negro who found himself behind the bars. Accosting a passing acquaintance, he inquired about the time.

"Whaffo you want to know de time? You ain't goin' nowhere," was the response.

Presumably, if precedent is worth anything, the cattle market is in the same fix. At present it has no more sense of

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direction than a firecracker, having apparently settled into a rut. Killers buy the big runs at slight depreciation; on the short crops they put it back. With the turn of the year price adjustment will be in seasonal order, and that term is always suggestive of depreciation. Anyhow, a bull is as lonely as a conscientious politician. Few feeders have the least confidence in an advance during the first three months of 1940. Big steers, the underdogs of the market for six months past, may run out as the old crop is being liquidated with all possible celerity. On the other hand, light steers now selling in the lower end of the price bracket are scheduled to show up more numerous as the winter works along. Kosher steers are likely to resume their logical position at the tip end of the range, as New York and Boston always need a few, especially when scarcity develops. In an emergency they invariably take the plainer types, now severely penalized, for substitute purpose—a tried-out and effective method of preventing soaring tops. They registered an oath, purportedly inviolable, never to repeat the pyrotechnics of 1937, when Chicago top reached \$19.90, the sequence being a veritable debacle—a nation-wide consumer strike that sent the entire trade down into the depths and inflicted damage on the beef industry that has not been effaced since.

Outlooks Numerous

Outlooks are as numerous as turkeys—official, private, expert, and amateur. Some are optimistic, based on expectancy of increased purchasing power due to swelling industrial pay rolls, ignoring labor union penchant to order the boys out of the plants and go on relief. Nobody gives the war the least consideration as a bullish influence. Opinions vary little, showing that most people are thinking along the same line. Outlooks make good reading. As Mark Twain remarked, "Difference of opinion makes horse racing possible," which applies equally to cattle feeding.

As to what the market needs, J. Ogden Armour's epigram, "The market needs variety," is explanatory. One trouble with the market recently is lack of variety, light, and especially short-fed, steers realizing what amounts to a premium, figuring yields and character of the product when it reaches the beef-rail. Temporarily, at least, killers are wrestling with a surplus of heavy beef varying from indifferent to choice for

which there is no dependable outlet, while trash and mediocrity, provided the critter weighs less than 1,000 pounds, is at a premium. This will change after the turn of the year. Meanwhile disposal of big product is a serious problem. Some 250 loads have been entered in the International carlot class, the bulk long yearlings and two-year-olds. It is the logical sequence of cheap corn, but the dose will not be repeated, as vivid recollection of this season's debacle will effectively restrain weight-making.

Anybody's Guess

What is ahead of the trade is anybody's guess. As well forecast the outcome of 1940 presidential conventions. That character of supply will change is not open to contradiction. Feeders are loaded to the guards with a new crop of steers; few heifers. And if it is possible to divine their intentions they will be "stuffed and shot"—fed full rations—and hustled to the market with all possible celerity the moment they are able to recoup the investment and pay well for the feed. No incentive to put on weight exists nor will it develop. During the first three months, a steer cashed will be considered advantageously disposed of. Feeders realize that they "got in high" and are not in a mood to stand on ceremony. All the steers—good, bad, and indifferent—marketed during the first quarter of 1939 made money—easy money. But subsequently trouble ensued, although low gain cost prevented serious loss, even in the case of heavy bullocks, with the possible exception of "elephants" and "monstrosities," the latter term meaning plain and common cattle that never should have been carried past the yearling stage and probably would not have been but for cheap feed and the lure of possible repetition of the 1937 and 1938 markets for that type, which merely demonstrates that the fascination of the game—using that term advisedly—lies in the uncertainty of the draw. Carrying steers in the feed-lot for the use of them meanwhile or for the residue of the operation—manure—lacks sound judgment.

Short-Feds on Top

Even now short-feds, meaning yearlings and yearling type steers of course, are getting maximum results. Nobody is able to produce a convincing explanation as to why a yearling fed 120 days realizes within 25 to 50 cents of bids elicited by similar weights fed six to seven

months; but such is the fact—a condition calculated to pull them out of the feed-lot before they have eaten their heads off. Feeders have learned how to finish cattle "fast" on a modicum of corn with generous doses of substitutes, and their policy is to keep everlastingly at it. Early in 1939 they were able to cash a poor steer at a good price; later a good steer realized a poor price, which is exactly the spot on which feeders are as these lines are inscribed.

Spreads will widen, as the entire day's receipts have been selling in an unprecedentedly narrow range—not to exceed \$1.50 per cwt. Changing character of supply will effectively, if not radically, change this, especially when and if the trade passes from a surplus of meritorious steers to one disclosing a surplus of mediocrity and trash. There is something radically out of line when a plain, light "car-router" sells at \$9.25 and a long-fed 1,400- to 1,500-pound kosher at the same price. Nothing is static in the scheme of nature or within the purview of the fat-cattle market.

Corn to Spare

No marked change has developed in feed cost. In certain sections corn is still selling around or under 40 cents; in others, 45 to 50 cents; but whatever the local price may be the era of low-cost gains has not merged into shadowy history. Nothing in the prospect is suggestive of a bulge in corn, as the entire belt is literally reeking with grain—the residue of 1937-38 production and a new crop avalanche. Bulk of 1939 corn production is either headed to sealed cribs or already there. Rodents and weevils will appropriate a portion, but there is enough and to spare.

Hints, if not assurance, come from Washington that the new loan will be 57 cents per bushel—high enough to seal the last bushel. The loan may be the purchase price, as it was this year. Growers are uninterested, as once the government man attaches his seal to a crib he is under no necessity to walk the floor nights or watch the ticker during the daylight stretch. A mere trickle of corn is flowing from country elevators to central markets. In fact, processors, unable to satisfy requirements, are using substitutes for starch-making and fermentation purposes. A land literally flowing with milk and honey respectfully but firmly refuses to disgorge.

Feeders, however, are manifesting concern, a condition having developed

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WILLIAM PAINTER HEREFORD CO.
ROGGEN, COLORADO

where they are unable to replenish empty cribs, so tightly is corn held. Having consumed their own production and unable to buy in the neighborhood, they order cars. Commercial cattle feeders purchase enormous quantities of corn under normal conditions, tenant farmers depending on them for a cash market. This grain is now going into what promises to be an unprecedented accumulation if Dame Nature adheres to her present policy.

This is one of many influences calculated to dislodge cattle prematurely. Killers require light steers; consumers demand light beef regardless of quality, which is sacrificed for weight and price. Estimates concerning the number of cattle on feed vary. Nothing in the nature of accurate statistics is available. But one indisputable fact cannot be ignored: a large percentage of the west-to-east pilgrimage during the past four months has carried an unprecedentedly large proportion of calves and light yearlings which cannot possibly figure in the beef supply during the ensuing six months if during the entire year. They were acquired to winter on a cheap but thrifty maintenance ration, spend the summer on grass with a feed bunker equipment, and go into the dry-lot next fall. Sacrificing good raw material in the shape of 850- to 1,000-pound yearlings is obsolete practice. Doubling the weight is no longer a popular shibboleth. With cheap gains, development may be carried on until weight has been trebled—a policy that is responsible for current scarcity of yearlings weighing less than 1,050 pounds. Consumers demanding baby beef must pay the price, which they are doing right now. Economical production weights range from 1,050 to 1,200 pounds. All this is based on current and recent conditions and, as the price catalog artists say, "subject to change without notice."

Five-Cent Hogs

Henry Wallace's prediction of 5-cent hogs promises to work out. By a series of adroitly planned bear raids packers have slashed drove cost at Chicago to \$6.25 to date and have enough ammunition in their kits to arouse Hitler's jealousy. Slaughter has swelled, with bigger figures ahead. They are buying greedily on every break, applying pressure on every slight recovery, and they have the situation well in hand. But for active competition by the small packer group, they would now be purchasing the entire crop with a front figure "5." They are bursting suspenders in efforts to accumulate inventories, both lard and meats, with a hunch that "during the duration" of the war Europe must be fed and that the aforesaid "duration" is in the shadowy future. Stocks are low and they need the money. Swine slaughter during the November-to-April period, known as the winter packing season, will be 15 to 20 per cent heavier than the pre-

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Cheyenne

vious corresponding period. Growers are anxious to unload, fearing that weight will be penalized—and avoirdupois is increasing.

Less Lamb Feeding

Winter lamb feeding will fall short of recent production performance, although some of the "outlookers" predict a moderate increase. Wool favors feeders, also low gain cost, but, as western lambs went to feed-lots carrying weight, the crop will move early. Already fed lambs weighing 98 to 103 pounds, in the pink of condition, are reporting at the market, and they will keep coming. A \$10 winter market will let feeders out with something to the good, as pelt credits have advanced to \$2.50 per cwt., live weight of the animal, the optimistic element predicting \$3.75 to \$4 late in the winter as wool length and quality increase. Packers are intent on accumulating wool inventories, penalizing shorn stock, and they know their wool. Take even \$3 off the live cost of a lamb and the edible portion of the carcass does not cost exorbitantly.

Northern Colorado and probably western Nebraska will feed the usual quota. Both the Arkansas Valley and the San Luis Valley will be short. Iowa alone is stocked up and will cash early. Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, and particularly Ohio are short as a clothespin. By February the bulk of visible supply will be concentrated in Nebraska and Colorado and in strong hands, warranting prediction that the inevitable high spot will be late in the winter.

FEEDERS

TRUNDLE THROUGH STOCKER alleys of any market, or go out to crossroads trading points scattered over the hinterland, and you will find that both actual and potential replacement demand is broad. Laggards, who waited for a fall bargain sale, are simply out of luck. They may be able to shade prices, but the selection period has passed into history, for the present season at least—and they still need cattle in the worst way.

Western gathering is practically over for the season, and those commercial breeders who were able to weather the stress of drought and resultant liquidation are in easy circumstances. This year's drought—and it is more serious than generally understood—outside sections favored by nature has had the effect of dislodging an inestimable number of young cattle that would otherwise have wintered on their native heath. Another dislodgment influence was the magnetic effect of attractive prices. The Corn Belt and its environs needed cattle and were willing to pay a stiff price. Western breeders complied. Feeders are making a loud noise concerning replacement cost, although it was not obligatory by any means. Banks are full of money. Thanks to govern-

ment policies and nature's bounty, the country is gorged with roughage and grain, with no possibility of liquidating on a cash basis except via the feed-lot. But for cattle, hogs, and sheep, grass and roughage would be worthless; the government corn loan would be tantamount to throwing money to the little birds.

Gain-Making Cheap

While not so favorable to meat-making, the corn situation and outlook has rarely been so favorable from a cheap gain-making viewpoint. Cattle are relatively high, hogs are still paying their board, and, between wool and mutton, lamb feeders are not squawking audibly. The new government loan—probably the same as the last crop, 57 cents per bushel—is not viewed complacently by commercial feeders under the necessity of replenishing stores at intervals, as the effect is bullish. The stream of grain trickling to terminal markets barely equals urgent industrial requirements, and full cribs back in the hinterland, regardless of loan eligibility, are held as firmly as the tail of a bear in the hands of an embarrassed hunter. Much talk is heard of vastly increased use by live stock. This is correct in the case of hogs but doubtful with the other species, as cattle and sheep feeders will cash when and if confronted with the alternative of taking on higher cost corn. Exporters are buying some corn; other packages are moving to export positions, but the total pilgrimage is much below that of the corresponding period of 1938. All this suggests higher winter gain cost, which will put thousands of cattle in weak position, subject to early liquidation on short feeds.

Near High Point

Stocker and feeder trade closed close to the high point of the year—higher than fat steers relatively—giving the investment a risky appearance. The usual grist of tail ends went over at shaded prices, although calves and light yearlings held up to the last round.



"GOSH, HONEY, I GOTTA SMILE AT THE TEACHER SOMETIME—YOU WANT ME TO GET PROMOTED, DON'T YOU?"

Arrival of a delegation of reds and roans, mostly natives, made it possible to acquire something to feed out in the \$7 to \$7.50 range, but these are "not much." Desirable western yearlings cost \$10 to \$10.25 up to the last round, two-year-olds of various types sold at \$8 to \$8.50 and were not in demand at that basis. A phenomenal "boy club" market for calves was easily the outstanding feature. Individuals sold at \$90 to \$110 at interior sales; \$60 to \$75 were common prices. Out in the Northwest, boy clubbers parted with \$10 to \$10.50 per cwt., paying 75 cents per cwt. or more for haulage. This boy club game is expanding, suggestive of the encirclement movement frazzling Hitler's nerves. When Barney Heide, boss man of the Chicago live-stock show, tallied his entries he discovered to his dismay that he had 600 more steers and heifers of this type than stall accommodation. After tearing his hair, he recovered calmness, appointed a sifting committee, and made provision for an advance show auction. Within recent memory, an aggregation of 300 boy club yearlings at the International justified scare-head lines in live-stock journals. At mid-November carloads of western calves sold on the Chicago market—northwestern product—at \$10.50 to \$11 per cwt.; heifer calves, around \$10, which is intimation to breeders of what their customers need. Yearlings weighing 575 to 625 pounds cost feeders \$9.75 to \$10.25; featherweight yearlings slightly more. Even the "dogs" if lacking weight got generous bids, but at no time were feeders keen for 900- to 1,100-pound fleshy feeders, taking their cue from a bad-acting market for heavy bullocks. Possessing merit, such steers sold at \$8 to \$8.50; otherwise, \$7 to \$7.50. Off-colored calves and yearlings and light cattle ashamed of their ancestry trooped over the scales with celerity, while prospective buyers gave weighty, fleshy steers nothing but a dirty look.

Outcome Obscure

That the outcome of this buying spree is somewhat obfuscated will not be disputed. "Guesstimates" on the aggregate purchase since August by the Corn Belt and its environs—and no statistics are available—range from 14 to 16 per cent in excess of the purchase of the corresponding period of 1938. This is heralded as portending a vast increase in beef production, which may be right or wrong, but interpretation is necessary. The aggregate purchase may be larger, but the country acquired an unusual crop of cattle, running largely to calves weighing 350 pounds or less to 400 pounds and 550- to 650-pound yearlings. The average weight of Kansas City's output was far below normal; at Chicago and other stocker markets the result was similar. Not to exceed 15 per cent of Chicago trade concerned two-year-old feeders; an occasional transaction exceeding 1,000 pounds got a mar-

ket-paper headline. Yard traders sorted off two-way steers, disposing of them to killers, who needed them in the worst way owing to a short crop of beef from the pasture country. This has short-routed a large number of fleshy steers, normally going to the feed-lot, through beef-coolers to immediate consumption. It institutes a new if not novel phase of beef production.

And another thing: Making bets on a rise of grass next spring, cheap feed-lot gains, and extreme probability of still higher replacement cost next spring, many feeders have anticipated summer needs. Consequently, thousands of light yearlings and calves have gone to the country that will not report to the butcher for many a long day. Time-honored contention that it is a big country, concealing more cattle than can be spotted from concrete highways or streamlined trains, is doubtless a fact; but that the western breeding area snuggled into the winter with herds "grazing on a thousand hills" is somewhat exaggerated. East of the Missouri even a casual tally would disclose an increased bovine population, but a cattle pilgrimage never has and never will swell the number, at least until mathematical processes are revised.

Good Property

So keep your shirts on, brothers. If you own a bunch of cattle, regard them as good property. Keep them close to the haystack through the winter, in confidence that the replacement scramble will be renewed next spring, especially if pastures, parched for two months past, stage a comeback and discredit drought forecasters. Should the 1940 corn crop make a promising start, demand for young cattle will be accentuated. In the event that the fourth big crop in a row materializes at picking time confusion will invade the conservation camp; cattle clamor will assume the proportions of a veritable din. In that event the sealing program with Uncle Sam's ducats behind it will go higher than a kite; the corn burners, now silent, will resume their tuneful lay. Without a drought—a timely drought—government corn loans will wear an inflated appearance regardless of weevil and rodent activity meanwhile. Like King Cotton, King Corn is threatened with a perceptible limp. Further reduction of acreage is merely a quack remedy, as the Corn Belt will merely increase the acreage in substitute feeds—sargo and soy beans, for instance—and scheme to beat the plan by sticking more fertilizer into the ground. No game was ever devised that could not be beaten. Government loan money is useful for booming the fertilizer business, also accelerating new car purchases.

Purebred Boom

A last word concerning breeding cattle: The purebred industry is in the throes of a boom. I could specify a hun-

dred new herds recently installed, and my vision is restricted. Home-grown yearlings, farm raised, have multiplied at the markets this year and will go farther if expansion is in the cards. Killers gave them a cordial welcome, as they are just what the doctor ordered. But for appreciation in western breeding stock an inestimable number of females would have pilgrimed to points east of the Missouri River recently, but farmers are still stingy, even short-sighted, their appraisal of a desirable whiteface cow being around \$50, and of course none are to be had at that figure. A \$50 cow nowadays would be doubtful investment, as establishing a farm herd on anything but a quality basis would justify a suspicion that the buyer had gone bughouse. Quality is a factor of major importance. Ignore it, and the sheriff is likely to appear on the scene.

POTPOURRI

PACKINGTOWN'S LABOR SITUATION has partly clarified, but continues tenuous. CIO activity is unabated. The Dies Committee is grilling packing-

house labor agitators in an attempt to disclose communistic backgrounds. A strike, even for a few days, would kick back into the producer camp, inflicting incalculable loss. The prospect is a sword suspended by a thread over the entire industry.

Ten-month cattle slaughter this year is 4 per cent less than the same period of 1938—7,835,584 head—and the smallest for the period since 1935. Calf slaughter is 4 per cent less and the smallest since 1933. Hog slaughter is 13 per cent more and the largest since 1934. Sheep slaughter is 6 per cent less and the smallest since 1936. Where did that promise of 14 per cent more cattle on feed go?

Canada had an import quota of 39,000 cattle over 100 pounds for the last quarter of 1939 but will not fill it. During the January-to-September period this year Canada sent 231,916 head of cattle to this market, against 94,480 last year. Of these, 137,180 head were in the 1½-cent duty class; 73,799 head under 200 pounds arrived, against 38,716 in 1938.

Mexico's contribution during the ten-

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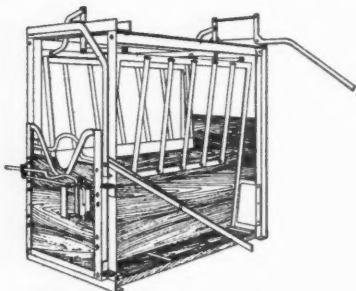
month period was 378,662, against 207,441 last year, practically all of which was stockers. Only 44,562 head were above 700 pounds against 29,850 last year, and 30,810 under 200 pounds, against 1,873 last year.

Beef (canned) imports for the same period aggregated 69,647,546 pounds against 58,400,564 pounds last year; beef and veal, 73,289,669 pounds, compared with 61,027,477 pounds last year. Pork imports were 38,256,923 pounds.

Beef storage on November 1 was 32 per cent less than the previous five-year average; pork, 16 per cent less; lard, but slightly higher. Lard exports for the ten-month period were 213,557,326 pounds against 148,324,925 pounds last year. The increase is attributable to European buying in anticipation and in view of war.

Live-stock interests are now thoroughly aroused to the menace of Argentine meat invasion of this market. Until recently, few were conscious of its existence, as agricultural organizations and newspapers practically preserved silence, except in the West.

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LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	October 1939	1938	First Ten Months 1939	1938
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,699,102	1,582,666	11,620,502	11,782,101
Calves	738,409	722,954	5,519,494	5,491,973
Hogs	2,458,437	2,255,336	21,794,041	19,624,120
Sheep	2,607,359	2,805,151	20,379,952	22,100,992
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	905,762	791,873	4,989,949	4,924,630
Calves	364,193	327,911	2,275,552	2,058,154
Hogs	617,179	587,267	5,734,728	5,538,978
Sheep	1,519,681	1,673,085	10,304,076	10,916,403
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	569,248	474,884	2,551,406	2,349,173
Calves	174,079	119,406	740,826	483,175
Hogs	37,310	28,139	407,132	346,293
Sheep	692,528	856,463	3,027,520	2,796,937
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	893,070	883,786	7,835,584	8,160,283
Calves	481,620	470,268	4,433,021	4,617,093
Hogs	3,545,147	3,310,720	31,694,605	27,927,042
Sheep	1,584,615	1,637,656	14,383,531	15,259,748

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Nov. 15, 1939	Oct. 16, 1939	Nov. 15, 1938
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$ 9.25-10.75	\$ 9.75-10.75	\$10.75-12.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.50- 9.50	8.75-10.00	9.00-11.25
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	10.25-11.00	10.25-11.00	10.75-12.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.75-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.75-10.75
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	7.75- 9.00	7.75- 9.00	7.25- 9.00
Fed Young Steers—Gd.Ch. (500-900 lbs.)	9.75-11.25	9.25-11.25	8.75-11.50*
Heifers—Good-Choice	9.75-11.00	9.50-11.25	8.75-11.25
Cows—Good	6.25- 6.75	6.50- 7.25	6.25- 7.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	9.50-10.50	10.50-12.00	9.00-11.00
Calves—Good-Choice	7.50- 8.50	8.00- 9.00	6.75- 8.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	8.00-10.50	8.50-10.25	7.50-10.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	7.00- 8.25	7.00- 8.50	6.25- 7.75
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	6.15- 6.35	7.15- 7.40	7.60- 7.75†
Lambs—Good-Choice	9.15- 9.45	9.35- 9.60	8.40- 9.25
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	7.25- 8.15	7.10- 8.35	6.65- 7.75
Ewes—Good-Choice	3.50- 4.50	3.25- 4.00	3.65- 4.10

*550-900 lbs. †200-250 lbs.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE WESTERN DRESSED MEAT PRICES

	Nov. 15, 1939	Oct. 16, 1939	Nov. 15, 1938
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$14.50-15.50	\$15.00-16.00	\$17.00-18.50
Steer—Good	13.50-14.50	14.00-15.00	15.00-17.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	15.00-17.00	15.00-17.50	17.00-18.50
Steer—Good	13.50-15.50	14.00-16.00	15.00-17.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	16.50-17.50	17.00-18.00	17.00-18.50
Yearling Steer—Good	15.50-16.50	16.00-17.00	15.00-17.00
Cow-Commercial*	11.00-12.50	11.00-12.00	12.00-13.00
Veal—Choice	15.00-16.00	16.00-17.00	16.50-18.00
Veal—Good	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.00	14.50-16.50
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (55 lbs. down)	15.50-17.00	15.00-16.50	17.50-19.00
Lamb—Good	14.50-16.00	14.00-15.50	17.00-18.00
Ewe—Good	6.50- 7.50	7.00- 8.00	8.00- 9.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lb. average	12.50-13.50	19.50-20.50	17.50-18.50

*Previous classification, "Good."

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Nov. 1, 1939†	Oct. 1, 1939	Nov. 1, 1938	Five-Yr. Ave.
Frozen Beef	37,486,000	26,691,000	28,019,000	55,484,000
Cured Beef*	11,760,000	10,226,000	13,199,000	17,304,000
Lamb and Mutton	3,498,000	2,965,000	2,606,000	3,191,000
Frozen Pork	63,348,000	67,975,000	51,540,000	67,133,000
Dry Salt Pork*	43,237,000	62,763,000	34,901,000	39,215,000
Pickled Pork*	166,093,000	169,488,000	165,204,000	217,333,000
Miscellaneous	57,578,000	59,392,000	50,268,000	66,011,000
Total Meats	383,000,000	399,500,000	345,737,000	465,671,000
Lard	68,136,000	78,794,000	67,667,000	69,623,000
Frozen Poultry	79,282,000	63,164,000	77,692,000	77,088,000
Creamery Butter	128,147,000	154,594,000	195,263,000	126,108,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	6,508,000	8,901,000	5,938,000	7,075,000

* Cured or in process of cure. † Subject to revision.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

NOTHING DOING IN WOOL, HIDES HEALTHY

BY J. E. P.

"NOMINAL" IS THE TERM USED by trade writers in describing the wool market. Interpreted, it means "nothing doing." Ever and anon a mill-man buys a few pounds of the fluffy stuff to piece out an order, but that crowd is not in a mood to accumulate inventories at current prices. Like the schoolboy who solicited the core of an apple another was eating and got only this reply: "This apple ain't goin' to have no core," they are in a waiting mood. Optimists insist that they are wrong. Possibly they are, but between Mr. Hull, presiding genius of the Department of State, a coterie of scientists working nights in their laboratories on a strenuous quest of ways and means of producing synthetic fibers—ersatz—and a general disposition to do nothing, the market is in a condition of coma.

Giving Hull first position, the British government is a good second, as it controls the entire holding of its antipodean dependencies and has enunciated no disposal program. Some of this wool may reach the market. Otherwise the bull element will be "sitting pretty." Meanwhile, despite admonition that clothing cost is scheduled to board an elevator, consumers are now thronging clothing dispensaries or sweeping retailers' shelves clear. A phenomenal fall season is suggestive of an open winter, and the man needing a new suit of clothes or overcoat is a congenital procrastinator, delaying replenishment until his spouse insists. Let the average masculine get past Christmas without buying an overcoat, and he decides to wriggle through with the old tattered garment, blowing in the money for new gadgets for his car and a can of antifreeze. Factually the automobile is mainly responsible for the deplorable sartorial appearance of American masculinity of this day and generation. When in doubt the boys invest in a new car—on time payments.

The daily market report shows up as brief as a hungry man's food blessing. Writers, from sheer force of habit, grind out a set of quotations. Currently, and especially nominally, three-eighths and quarter blood bright fleeces are worth 46 to 48 cents in the grease; country packed, mixed grade lots, three-eighths and quarter blood, 44 to 46 cents; semi-bright, 38 to 40 cents. There is no trading basis for territory wools; none could be found with a search warrant. Even when owners offer to shade prices, they elicit no audible response. Nominally it is a 95-cent to \$1 market for scoured in bag lines; 92 to 95 cents for average short French combing lengths. Twelve-months Texas wools are selling in original bags at \$1 to \$1.02; fall shorn, at 82 to 85 cents.

When and if mills reach a buying mood, expectancy is that they will take on Class III wools around a \$1 basis,

equivalent to 29 to 30 cents in the grease.

Some wise guys in the trade predict a "squeeze" despite the fact that free foreign markets are slightly below a parity with current Boston prices. Limited domestic stocks is a logical bullish factor, mills are operating on commercial orders at full capacity, and reported unfilled orders are practically double what they were a year ago, which is equivalent to 60,000,000 to 80,000,000 pounds of grease wool. The government is placing orders for overcoating, blankets, and various other types of military fabrics—a volume of orders that would have been considered sensational not long ago. This business represents an increase in cost that would be equivalent to 24 cents per pound if passed on to growers, which is not on the agenda.

Optimists conceive a situation where foreign wool will be scarce, especially military stuff. If made from foreign wool, manufactured in bond, apparent holdings of imported wool would shrink like a deflated dollar. Made of domestic wool and paid for on the basis of domestic prices, a "war boom" would loom on the horizon.

A problem is what the British government proposes to charge American mills for wool when and if any is available. That not a single pound will be forked over gratuitously is a cinch bet. South African wool is also London property, and a floor has been placed under its value.

Wool back in growers' hands is strongly held. Texas holding has been cleaned up, with the possible exception of a modicum of short fall shorn stocks. Contracting the new western clip is at a standstill.

Hides Slip

Hides have slipped some since the early September boom, but the market has a healthy foundation. Uncertainty concerning tariff changes, shoe business, and whatever else the mysterious future holds are swaying factors. A slight increase in slaughter is ignored. The tariff scrap has been intensified by a demand, rather than a suggestion, by New England tanners that Secretary Hull ease their pathway by reducing the present impost on South American hides 50 per cent, which he would probably do but for a restraining legislative hand. Packers are cautious sellers, and they are holding the bag. Navigation obstacles are likely to curb imports from the antipodes "during the duration." Shoe output shows a seasonal decrease, and the approaching inventory period invariably acts as a brake on trade. Present swapping conditions leave little to talk about. Daily transactions in the spot market fluctuate in volume, as tanners buy only under stress of necessity.

October-November extra light steers are selling at 14½ cents; light native cows, at 13¼ cents. Quotable heavy native steers, 58 pounds up, are worth 14½ cents; heavy Texas, 58 pounds up, 14

cents; extra light natives, 48 pounds down, 14½ cents; heavy butts, 58 pounds up, 14 cents; and heavy Colorados, 58 pounds up, 13¾ cents, Chicago. Packer cows sell at 13½ to 14 cents. Small packer hides are quotably 12 to 13 cents, both cows and steers. The country market is dormant. At mid-November 1,108,104 certificated hides were in licensed warehouses.



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FOREIGN

PEAR AND HOPPER CONTROL IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION from a reader, I propose this month to detail briefly the steps taken to combat prickly pear in Queensland. I say Queensland, and not Australia, because it was in that state more than any other that the pear got out of hand, and its spread assumed alarming proportions. Prickly pear is not indigenous to Australia. The story goes that the common pest varieties *O. inermis* and *O. stricta* were introduced as rare pot plants and that when they outgrew the pots were placed in a country garden. The next stage was use as a hedge, and after that rapid spread to something approaching chaos.

In 1923 the position in Queensland was regarded as being almost hopeless. The pear was spreading at the rate of from 800,000 to 1,000,000 acres per annum, large areas of land were going out of occupation, and the plight of many settlers was desperate. The Queensland government of the day appointed a royal commission to inquire into the matter and to recommend measures for combating the pest. The royal commission worked quickly, and as a result of its findings the Prickly Pear Land Commission was created in 1924, with the power to administer all the pear land in the state. The area placed under its jurisdiction was 65,000,000 acres (101,500 square miles) of which 26,000,000 acres (over 40,000 square miles) were more or less badly infested.

Apart from the fact that the Prickly Pear Land Commission was given authority to vary terms of land leases in pear areas, it had to make available to landholders at reasonable prices effective poisons and apparatus for the destruction of scattered growths. For areas of dense infestation where poisons could not be administered the commission was instructed by the government to make available biological agencies of destruction. It is in the latter connection that the most spectacular results have been obtained, due mainly to the introduction from America of the now famous *Cactoblastis cactorum* insect and to a lesser extent to varieties of cochineal insect and a species of longicorn beetle.

Cactoblastis was introduced in 1924 or thereabouts, and, after careful tests had made certain that it could live on no other plant than prickly pear, an intensive policy of controlled breeding at insectariums in the pear areas was adopted. The first distribution of eggs was made in October, 1927, continuing until 1931, by which time 2,204,000,000 had been placed in areas of dense infection. Since 1931 the grub has bred under natural field conditions sufficiently to check the

spread of pear and to assist very materially in controlling secondary growths. The measure of its success may be gauged when it is stated that in June, 1938, 20,359,731 acres of the 65,000,000 placed under control of the commission in 1924 had been opened up for settlement. Today there are thousands of prosperous dairy farms and breeding properties where fifteen years ago pear growth was so thick as to be absolutely impenetrable.

The following extract from the latest annual report of the Prickly Pear Land Commission gives a view of the future:

"The record of the financial year just closed—the fourteenth year of the Prickly Pear Land Commission—is one of continued success in the control of prickly pear. Though from time to time reports are received of considerable areas being reinfested and even though it is true that in some districts there is now more pear than was the case four or five years ago, there is no danger that it will assume pest proportions, as it is certain that the *cactoblastis* insect will breed up in sufficient numbers to control it. In localities which for many years were densely covered with the pest, the constant falling of ripe fruit has heavily impregnated the soil with seed, and as prickly pear has very lasting qualities, being known to have germinated after remaining in the ground for twenty years, it is only to be expected that for a long time yet there will be times when pear will appear to have got out of hand. The commission's experience, however, gives ample justification for confidence that prickly pear will not again become a serious pest.

"The policy of the commission is that scattered seedling pear should not be allowed to bear fruit and so distribute further seeds, which means that landholders are required to destroy by poisoning or other methods such plants as are at or close to the fruiting stage and not sufficiently infected with insects to insure their destruction before seeding could take place.

"The foregoing remarks relate more particularly to the so-called pest pears, *O. inermis* and *O. stricta*, but the excellent work being done by the special strain of cochineal insect, *Dactylopius confusus*, in the destruction of tiger pear, *O. aurantiaca*, would appear to indicate a similarly happy state of affairs at an early date in respect of that dreaded pest. Tiger pear is a low-growing type of cactus and in good seasons is very difficult to detect.

"The position with regard to the tree pears, which are found chiefly in the central part of the state, is quite hopeful. This is also due to the work of the insects—another strain of cochineal and a large beetle, *Lagochirus funestus*, which in the larval stage feeds on the tree pears. Landholders generally assist the cochineal by chopping down tree pear infected with the insect near to the ground and lopping the branches close to the stem. It has been found that cochineal very quickly destroy the plants treated in this manner."

Reader also suggests that I should say something about the efforts that are being made to control grasshoppers on this side. Though different states have their own regulations, these mostly agree in placing on landowners the onus of reporting egg beds and swarms to prescribed authorities and of poisoning the hoppers.

The regulations for New South Wales, which are fairly typical, allow landholders an option of poisoning with baits or sprays. The bait has to be made in accordance with the following formula:

Arsenite of soda (80 per centum arsenious oxide content), $\frac{1}{2}$ pound; or arsenite of soda (60 per centum arsenious oxide content), $\frac{3}{4}$ pound; water, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; molasses, 41 pounds; bran, 24 pounds.

The formula for the spray is:

Arsenite of soda (80 per centum arsenious oxide content), $\frac{3}{4}$ pound; or arsenite of soda (60 per centum arsenious oxide content), 1 pound; molasses or treacle (preferably molasses), 2 pounds; water, 16 gallons.

It is laid down that the bait shall be scattered evenly over a strip of ground about thirty feet wide immediately in front of the advancing swarm of grasshoppers during the period immediately after they have hatched out and before they become fully winged, and the bait shall also be scattered through such swarm of grasshoppers. The poison spray shall be applied lightly and evenly on a strip of grass or herbage about thirty feet wide immediately in front of the advancing swarm of grasshoppers during the period immediately after they have hatched out and before they become fully winged, and the spray shall also be applied directly on such swarm of grasshoppers.

I may say that graziers generally strongly oppose compulsory poisoning, on the ground that the baits tend to destroy bird life. The bulk of evidence supports this view, and the commonwealth government, through its Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, is searching for parasites which will destroy the hoppers or eggs. To the destruction of bird life is given the blame for the prevalence of sheep blowflies and even grasshoppers.

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

NEW FOOD RATIONING REGULATIONS for Germany provide for a small increase in the meat ration, a readjustment of fat rations, and special one-time distribution of meat, butter, eggs, rice, beans, peas, and chocolate in December, we read in "Foodstuffs Round the World." The normal meat ration is raised for four months by 125 grams for each four week period. The present ration is 2,000 grams for four weeks. . . . The first beefless day in France was observed on October 24. A decree ordered butcher shops closed on Mondays and prohibited sale of beef on Tuesdays. Public eating places were ordered to

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serve no beef, veal or mutton on Mon-
days and no beef on Tuesdays. . . . Aver-
age percentage of increase in food prices
in the United Kingdom from September
1 to September 30 was: Sugar, 47; fish,
29; fresh eggs, 19; salt butter, 19; Brit-
ish beef, 3 to 5; chilled or frozen beef,
7; bacon, 10; flour, 3; bread, 2; fresh
butter, 12; cheese, 4; margarine, 1; po-
tatoes, 1.

HORSES FOR FRANCE

Horses for export to France will be
purchased when cargo space in ships is
available, according to Wayne Dinsmore,
secretary of the Horse and Mule Asso-
ciation of America. Contracts have been
executed by France for the purchase of
6,000 animals, two-thirds to be riding
horses and one-third light and heavy
artillery. They will be bought at only
three horse markets—Chicago, National
Stock Yards, Illinois, and Kansas City,
Missouri.

PROHIBITS CATTLE EXPORT

The Southern Rhodesian government
has prohibited the export of live cattle
from the colony in order to conserve
supplies of cattle and make as large a
quantity of frozen meat as possible
available for the markets of the United
Kingdom. An order for prohibiting the
slaughter for food of female stock suit-
able for breeding purposes is to be made
in the near future.

LARGEST MEAT SALE

One of the largest transactions in the
history of the Argentine packing indus-
try was the selling recently of 200,000
tons of meat to Great Britain and
France. It was estimated that nearly
600,000 head of cattle will be involved
in the order. . . . Possibility of an Italian
purchase of 6,000 tons of frozen beef in
Argentina, supposedly to provision the
Fascist army, is mentioned in the press.

CONDITIONS GOOD

Here in my part of the country condi-
tions are pretty good. We have had a
couple of rains and a good snow, and the
green grass is coming fine. Seems to be
plenty of hay. There was a big carry-
over. Cattle, I believe, will go into the
winter in very good shape.—L. C. HUFF-
MAN, Wallowa County, Ore., Oct. 26.

CONTINUED DROUGHT

I haven't many cattle left, as the con-
tinued drought for several years and
grasshoppers in this part of the country
have nearly done away with the hay and
grass. How many good or normal years
it will take to bring it back is beyond
me, but I still wish to receive your
magazine.—J. W. REED, Creston, S. D.

December, 1939

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ROUND THE RANGE

WEATHER GOOD FOR STOCK BUT SOIL IS DRY

WEATHER IN THE WEST HAS been favorable for live stock. Ranges, according to the Denver office of the Agricultural Marketing Service, improved two points in October and held their improvement into mid-November. But Kansas condition had dropped sharply—six points; Arizona, two points. Live stock is entering the winter in about average condition and feed supplies are generally sufficient for normal requirements. But the ground is dry.

Ranges were considerably poorer than a year ago and were below average. Rains are needed over the whole range area and particularly in the Great Plains section to replenish stock water and soil moisture. In the first half of November Texas, except in the Panhandle and south, got rains, as did central and north-central Oklahoma and central and eastern Kansas. Some improvement developed in western Oregon and Washington.

In the drought areas where ranges are poor and numbers have been reduced some supplemental feeding has helped maintain condition of cattle. Cattle prices have been relatively high and in areas where range prospects are poor shipments were heavy. Although ranges were rather poor all summer, cattle are going into the winter in fair condition. While the November 1 condition is only one point below the ten-year average, these ten years have included five of the lowest November 1 conditions of record. There is some tendency to restock in short-feed areas.

Condition of sheep was one point below the ten-year average. Improvement was largely in the area west of the Continental Divide, where ranges improved, and in Texas. Sheep generally are entering winter in only fair condition. Ranges in many areas are short and rather heavy feeding of concentrates in these areas will be necessary.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

CATTLE IMPORTS, MEAT IMPORTS and exports, and wool imports for the first nine months of the year, according to Agricultural Marketing Service figures, were:

CATTLE IMPORTS FROM CANADA (HEAD)		
	1939	1938
700 lbs. up.....	143,607	44,601
200-700 lbs.....	7,831	4,727
Under 200 lbs.....	73,799	38,716
Breeding	6,679	6,436
Total	231,916	94,480

CATTLE IMPORTS FROM MEXICO (HEAD)		
	1939	1938
700 lbs. up.....	44,562	29,850
200-700 lbs.....	303,070	175,437
Under 200 lbs.....	30,810	1,873
Breeding	220	281
Total	378,662	207,441

TOTAL CATTLE IMPORTS (HEAD)		
	1939	1938
All Countries.....	611,684	303,355

IMPORTS OF MEATS (POUNDS)		
	1939	1938
Canned Beef	69,647,546	58,400,564
Beef and Veal.....	73,289,669	61,027,477
Pork	38,256,923	40,810,839

EXPORTS OF MEATS (POUNDS)		
	1939	1938
Beef and Veal.....	10,816,119	9,753,358
Pork	98,240,649	69,246,741
Lard	213,557,326	148,324,925

UNMFD. WOOL IMPORTS (POUNDS)		
	1939	1938
Apparel	61,048,792	17,522,718
Carpet	114,166,398	35,860,518

COUNTERFEIT GRADING CHARGED

The Home Packing Company, of Toledo, Ohio, has been ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture to stop using alleged counterfeit meat grading stamps. The government charged the company with selling beef carcasses as having been graded and stamped by a representative of the Department of Agriculture when they had not been so graded. It was charged that the packer had made and used a counterfeit meat grading stamp, with intent to make purchasers believe that the meat had been officially graded.

PAYS MEAT BOARD

During the first seven months of the current fiscal year the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association collected \$5,954 from its members and remitted to the National Live Stock and Meat Board. This fund was paid by members on the basis of 1 cent for each head of cattle run. The previous year \$5,473 was collected, making \$11,427 paid the Meat Board by the organization.

MISSING CATTLEMAN SOUGHT

Relatives of Henry Merseburger are anxious to locate him and ask that anyone knowing of his whereabouts communicate with Mabel A. Genung, M.D., through the PRODUCER. He went to the Panhandle country of Texas when it was Indian territory. He was then about seventeen years of age. His occupation is given as cattleman.

ARMOUR PROFITS

Preliminary estimate indicates that Armour and Company's net profit will be in the neighborhood of \$6,500,000 for the fiscal year ended October 28, according to a statement by George A. Eastwood, president of the company. Final results will not be known until domestic and foreign figures have been compiled and consolidated and audited. Last year the company sustained a loss of \$1,505,089. "The improvement," Mr.

Eastwood pointed out, "is not due to any substantial increase in prices but rather comes from an increase in employment throughout the country. No foreign demand for meats in the country has developed yet as a result of the war," he said. "We believe that, if our nation keeps out of war and nurtures its own recovery movement which has set in, the coming year will be a good one for business in general."

FEEDSTUFF PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on November 21 at \$32 a ton, f. o. b. Dallas. Omaha prices on soybean oil meal, 41 and 44 per cent protein, November 20, were \$38.50 to \$39; linseed oil meal—fine, 37 per cent protein, \$39; pea size, \$40. Hay prices, carlot, on November 20, at Omaha, were: Alfalfa—No. 1, \$15 to \$16; standard leafy, \$14 to \$15; standard, \$13 to \$14; No. 2, \$12 to \$13; No. 3, \$10 to \$11.50; sample, \$7.50 to \$9.50; upland prairie—No. 1, \$8.50 to \$9.50; No. 2, \$8 to \$9; No. 3, \$6.50 to \$7; sample, \$5 to \$6; midland prairie—No. 1, \$9 to \$10; No. 2, \$7 to \$8.50.

SALES AND SHOWS

TWENTY LOADS OF STEER calves averaged \$12.25 per cwt., freight paid to destination, at the twelfth annual Highland Hereford sale recently at Marfa, Texas. Eleven loads of heifer calves averaged \$10.32 per cwt., and fifteen loads of yearlings set a \$9.65 average. All the calves were taken by eastern and Corn Belt buyers. Smith Brothers' grand champion load of steer calves sold at \$14 per cwt. The reserve champion load of George Jones' steer calves brought \$13.25. First prize heifer calves sold at \$10.75 per cwt., and first prize yearling steers brought \$10.25. All the cattle in the annual Highland Hereford sale are sold with freight paid to destination. W. B. Mitchell & Sons, of Marfa, are sales managers.

FEEDER CLASS CHAMPION

A load of Hereford calves shown by Dan Casement, Manhattan, Kansas, won the championship in the feeder class at the recent American Royal at Kansas City. A. H. Schmidt, Kansas City, again won grand championship on his fat steers—a load of Angus yearlings. The steers were produced on the Schmidt ranch near Laramie, Wyoming. Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, had the grand champion fat steer—an Angus summer yearling.

INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES LARGE

Beef cattle entries at the International Live Stock Exhibition, Chicago, December 2-9 are at an all-time high, says B. H. Heide, secretary-manager of the

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

exhibition. Herefords show a 95 per cent increase over last year, he reveals, with 510 purebreds and individual steers listed by breeders and feeders from nineteen states and Canada. The Aberdeen-Angus entry of 440 head is also an all-time record and will come from twenty states and Canada. Shorthorn followers have listed a 12 per cent increase over last year. The reds, whites, and roans are coming from eighteen states and Canada. The entry is further swelled by a record number of beeves in the junior live-stock feeding contest. With 480 calves entered, the listing is 35 per cent higher than the previous top entry in this event. The junior show registry consists of 401 boy and girl exhibitors from thirteen states.

HOLDS FIRST SALE

The top price of \$1,500 was paid at the Banning-Lewis Ranch, Colorado Springs, Colorado, sale November 4 when cattlemen from a dozen states attended the first public auction sale of this breeding establishment. Other strong bull tops were \$1,175 and \$750. One hundred and forty-two herd and ranch bull prospects averaged \$327; 136 heifers, \$175.

TOP PRICE \$4,500

Buyers from twenty states and two foreign countries gathered at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch at Cheyenne, Wyoming, October 26 in a history-making Hereford sale event. Top price was \$4,500 and was paid by W. L. Allen, Ken Caryl Ranch, Littleton, Colorado. The average on thirty-four bulls was \$886; on twenty-one females, \$787.

RECORD ON FEEDER CALVES

Fred C. DeBerard tied the all-time price record for carload feeder calves when his Hereford calves sold on the Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show for \$20. They not only won the Hereford championship but also went on through stiff competition to win the grand championship. A DeBerard bred calf also won the Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Club show.

CHAMPION HEREFORD

Declared champion Hereford bull of the Great Western Live Stock Show was Royal Belmont 12th, owned by Herbert Chandler, of Baker, Oregon.

INSPECTION FEE LOWERED

Colorado brand inspection fees were cut from five cents to two cents a head November 1, we read in the *Record Stockman* (Denver). The reduction will apply on all Colorado inspected cattle except those at live-stock auction sales rings. The sales ring law does not permit a change in the ten-cent a head fee unless invoked by the legislature.

JUNIORS

JIMMY POOLE WRITES A PARAGRAPH in his market story this month that will interest the juniors: "A phenomenal 'boy club' market for calves was easily the outstanding feature in stocker and feeder trade. Individuals sold at \$90 to \$110 at interior sales; \$50 to \$75 were common prices. Out in the Northwest, boy clubbers parted with \$10 to \$10.50 per cwt., paying 75 cents per cwt. or more for haulage. This boy club game is expanding, suggestive of the encirclement movement frazzling Hitler's nerves. When Barney Heide, boss man of the Chicago live-stock show, tallied his entries he discovered to his dismay that he had 600 more steers and heifers of this type than stall accommodation. After tearing his hair, he recovered calmness, appointed a sifting committee, and made provision for an advance show auction. Within recent memory, an aggregation of 300 boy club yearlings at the International justified scare-head lines in live-stock journals."

TRIP TO NORTHWESTERN IOWA

Due to our custom of delivering the cattle we sell and getting a cross-section of ranching for a year between high school and college terms, I have been able to make many observations. Perhaps the most fascinating was a trip to northwestern Iowa.

The care of breeding cattle was quite different from our methods. The cows in the purebred herds of E. P. Baker, of Pomeroy, and J. H. Bradford, of Fonda, were being fed on a ration of soybean hay, cane fodder, and corn fodder while running on foxtail and bluegrass pasture. These cows and calves were certainly in fine condition as compared with cattle in this section wintering on range and possibly some bunched hay at this time of year. As the winter progresses the stock all must have shelter either in a barn or behind a straw stack shaped like a V facing south.

Cattle do not receive the quantity of range customary to our section due to the price of land and size of farms. At another farm the herd was pasturing in natural bluegrass six inches tall which had been frosted slightly and had formed a complete mat of foliage on the ground.

After the corn fields, which average 100 bushel per acre in normal years, have been picked, the cattle are turned in the stalks which are strong enough to puncture a tractor radiator. All grain which has been missed and the tender foliage are utilized in that way.

The purebred Hereford herds were of fair quality but consisted only of an average of fifteen cows per farm of 320 acre average. The breeders therefore often use one good bull in partnership among two or three herds. The main demand for these calves is through 4-H Club members seeking to place higher in

competition. Purebred cattle raising is more of a sideline to the intensified farming of the region.—KEN MESSER-SMITH, Alliance, Neb.

MODERN FEED YARD

Here is a letter about a 1940 model feed yard that I saw on an Iowa farm. It was a modern thing with an automatic waterer with heater so the water is warm all the time. The ground was paved so that it wouldn't get soft in spring. It sloped so that it would drain. There were rings fastened in the cement so that the feed bunks could be fastened down and not be upset or rubbed around. At the north end there was a shed 26 by 72 feet with a feed rack at one end

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so that all feed would be dry in wet weather. The feed rack was filled with soybean hay, but they had green foxtail to put in it, too. The shed was open across the front to invite nature's best germicide. If any of the readers are near Manning, Iowa, it is a short distance out to Lester Weise's farm where this feed-lot is located. He will be glad to show it to you, I am sure.—ORVAL E. JOHNSON, Antioch, Neb.

STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

THE TRAMPLING HERD, by Paul I. Wellman. Published by Carrick & Evans, Inc., 20 East 57th Street, New York.

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a great cattle empire and its cattle kings counted their herds by thousands of heads. But Texas was far from the markets, and soon we follow the longhorns on their long migrations northward to the railroads which were pushing west across a virgin continent—and to the northern prairies. We read of the prodigious feats of the trail herders, some of which were of epic proportions; of the springing up of cow towns on the prairies; of the exploits of Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp, and Wild Bill Hickok; of Indian raids and of sudden death on the trail; of fortunes won and lost. Mr. Wellman tells of the great days of the cowboy, how he lived and worked—and played. He tells of the famous cattlemen's wars, and of the long feud between the cattleman and the sheep herder, the cowpuncher and the settler; of the primitive heraldry which was associated with the cattle brand; of the introduction of barbed wire which doomed the open range and revolutionized the raising of cattle.

BANG'S DISEASE POSTER. To aid the federal-state program against Bang's disease, the Department of Agriculture has issued a poster on the subject. Besides portraying the disease in pictorial manner, the new poster contains brief text to inform cattle owners and the public regarding its cause, sources of infection, symptoms, prevention, and eradication. In this poster appears for the first time, we believe, official recognition of calfhoo vaccination "when officially recognized" as a preventive in the disease.

SOIL DEFENSE OF RANGE AND FARM LANDS IN THE SOUTHWEST, by E. M. Rowalt, Soil Conservation Service. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication 338. Illustrated. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price 10 cents. Shows how problems on range lands and farm lands are related to public welfare, including the permanent stability of the resources on which towns and cities in the region depend. Contains a brief description of the activities of the Soil Conservation Service in the Southwest.

WINTERING STEERS ON DIFFERENT PLANES OF NUTRITION FROM WEANING TO TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF AGE, By W. H. Black, senior animal husbandman, J. R. Quesenberry, senior animal husbandman, and A. L. Baker, assistant animal husbandman, Animal Husbandman Division, Bureau of Animal Industry. Superintendent of Documents. Ten cents.

COMPOSITION OF COMMON CALIFORNIA FOOTHILL PLANTS AS A FACTOR IN RANCH MANAGEMENT, by Aaron Gordon and Arthur W. Sampson. Bulletin 627. Ninety-five pages, illustrated. Published by University of California, Berkeley, California.

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